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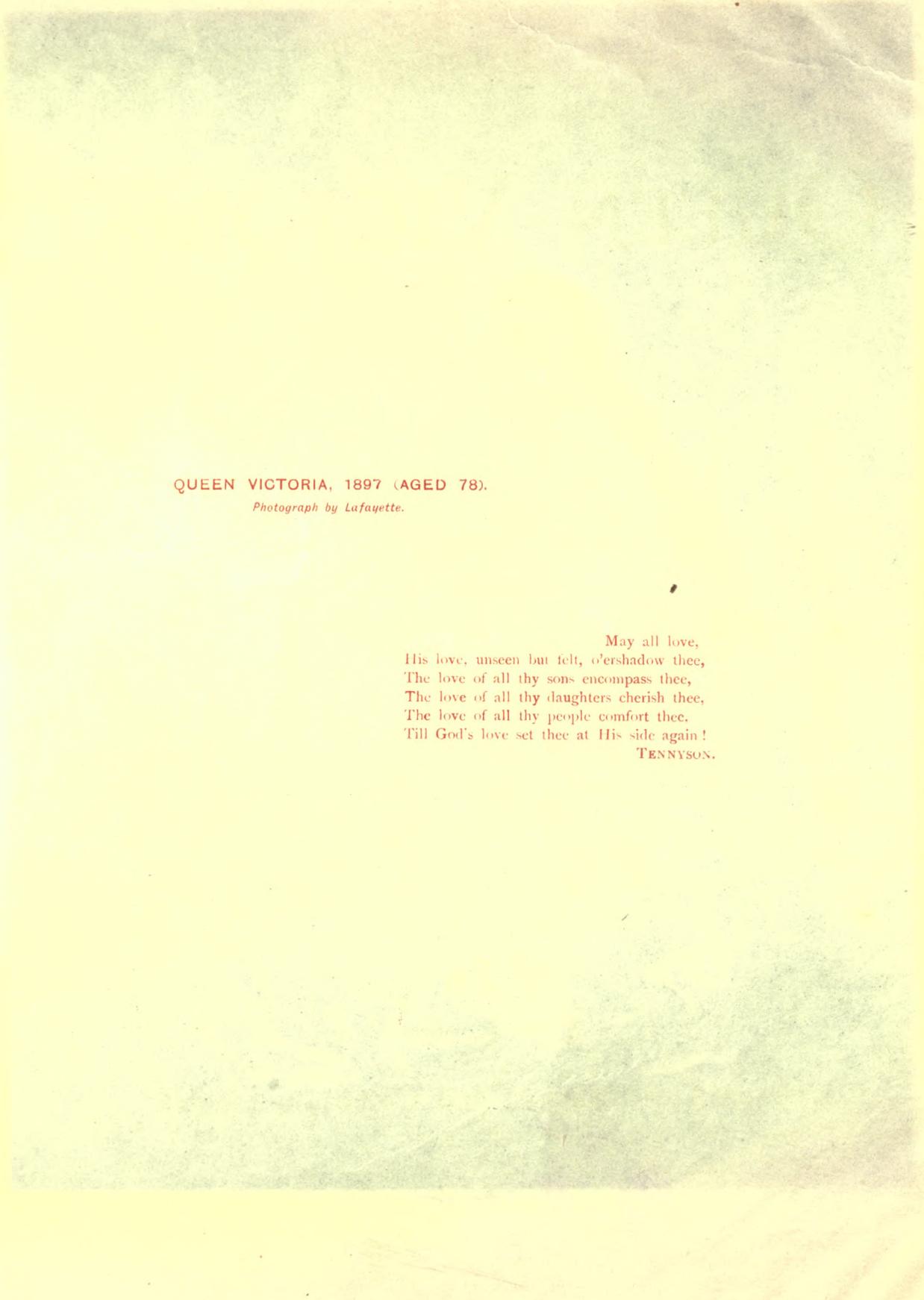
1931

THE LIFE OF
QUEEN VICTORIA

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Walter L. Colle, Ph. Sc.



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1897 (AGED 78).

Photograph by Lafayette.

May all love,
His love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at His side again!

TENNYSON.

THE LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA

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Illustrations*

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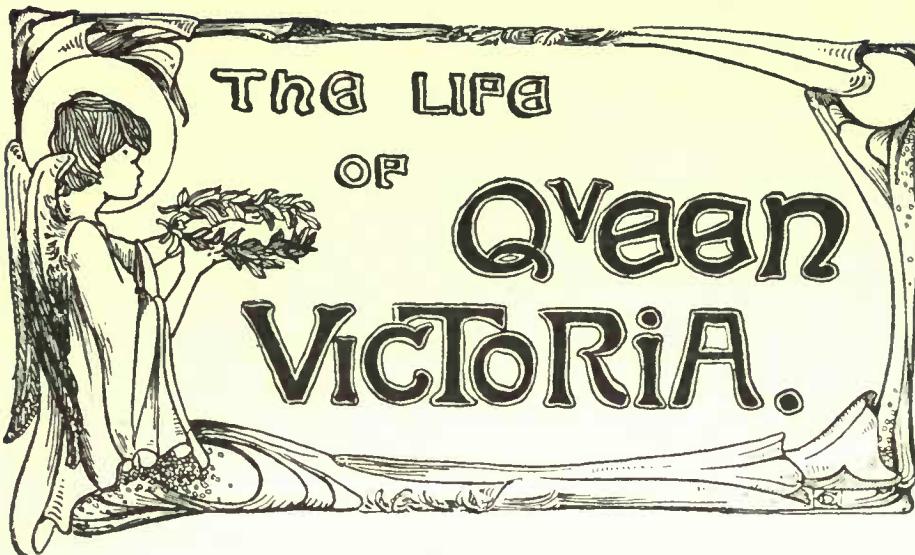
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The Initial Letters are designed by the Misses Capper



To write the life of Queen Victoria is to relate the history of Great Britain during a period of great events, manifold changes, and unexampled national prosperity. No reign in the annals of any country can compare with that of the late Sovereign; and to her, whose personal influence helped in a large measure to make this epoch one that will be ever gratefully remembered, we owe more than to any of our former Kings and Queens. In reckoning the extent of our debt towards her, we have only to think how differently the course of public affairs might have moved during the last sixty-four years had

Victoria been other than she was. She might have possessed, as she did, all womanly virtues, and yet not have been a good Queen; she might have been a Sovereign of commanding firmness, with high aims and generous impulses, without being a good woman, in which case her subjects would have lost the ennobling example of her private life. Again, she might have been both an able Princess and a virtuous woman, combining the virility of Elizabeth with the gentle purity of Jane Grey, and have failed, nevertheless, in the special qualities that were necessary to make her a successful and popular ruler over this peculiarly-constituted nation. As it is, people will say that her reign was happy and glorious, and will call her a good Queen, an excellent daughter, wife, and mother; but all who repeat this just praise, that

will sound in echoes upon echoes from corners to corners of her vast Empire, will, perhaps, not be aware how much it implies.

Queen Victoria was a ruler of a new type. When she ascended the throne the popular faith in Kings and Queens was on the decline. She revived that faith; she consolidated her throne; she not only captivated the affections of the multitude, but won the respect of thoughtful men; and all this she achieved by methods which to her predecessors would have seemed impracticable—methods which it required no less shrewdness to discover than force of character and honesty of heart to adopt steadfastly. A Court jester once remarked that it was better for a country to be governed by a Queen than by a King, for in the latter case the influence of women would prevail, whereas in the former the ascendancy of men was sure to make itself felt. Queen Victoria illustrated this maxim in a way never contemplated by the humourist, for she lived all her life subject to the guidance of wise men. But to accept the guidance of the wise is in itself a sign of too rare wisdom. The Queen was no woman of placid temperament who could remain indifferent to public affairs so long as her domestic concerns were not interfered with. To imagine that she divested herself of all responsibilities and secured to herself a peaceful life by doing, without reflection, whatever her Ministers advised, would be absolutely to misunderstand her intelligent, sensitive nature, and to ascribe grand results to very petty causes. It is with good advice as with other commodities—the best is given to those who want the best and can judge of its quality; and whilst all who approached the Queen have borne witness to her candour and reasonableness in relations with her Ministers, all have likewise proclaimed how anxiously she considered advice that was submitted to her before letting herself be persuaded that she must accept it for the good of her people. By thus acting she put statesmen on their mettle, and raised the level of public morality. We know how in private life our conduct may be regulated by the fear of offending some person who claims no absolute authority to check us, but whose good opinion we highly value. Coming from such a quarter a look of astonishment, a criticism conveyed under the form of a mild question, or mere silence, are potent means of control; and it was mainly this kind of control that the Queen exercised over public men, in many cases with signal benefit, throughout her long reign.

Viewing that reign in its incidents, what a chronicle it offers of great national achievements, startling innovations, and progress in

every direction! The first railway was constructed before Victoria came to the throne, but the universal development in the appliances of steam and electricity took place in her time, and it profoundly altered the conditions of political and social life. In some respects the outcome of scientific discoveries has surpassed all expectations, in others it has disappointed them. Where over-sanguine anticipations had been formed, without taking human nature into account, they have been left unrealised. Wars have not ceased; patriotism has not declined even among the philosophers who have sought to prove its absurdity; religious controversy is as rife as ever; and, on the whole, notwithstanding that schools, books, and newspapers have multiplied beyond computation, the masses of mankind remain sadly ignorant. They may know more than their fathers did, but the difference between them and the highly-educated classes is more marked than it could have been in the days when all science was comprehended in a knowledge of theology and the classics. The unlettered artisan of Elizabeth's reign was not so far, intellectually speaking, from his rulers as the newspaper-reading workman of Victoria's time from his; but as this truth is the reverse of popular it must be pronounced as the greatest wonder of Victoria's reign that her people, though free and often agitated by mob-flatterers, should have lived in willing, loving subjection to her governance. That the Queen's personal character contributed greatly to the stability of this country's institutions cannot be doubted. There were several occasions during her reign when an imprudent act on her part might have caused a sudden downfall of valued institutions; but she rode safely through every storm, and the story of her life is full of extraordinary interest as showing how she contrived to be so prudent and fortunate till her days closed amid incomparable lustre.

BIRTH AND PARENTAGE

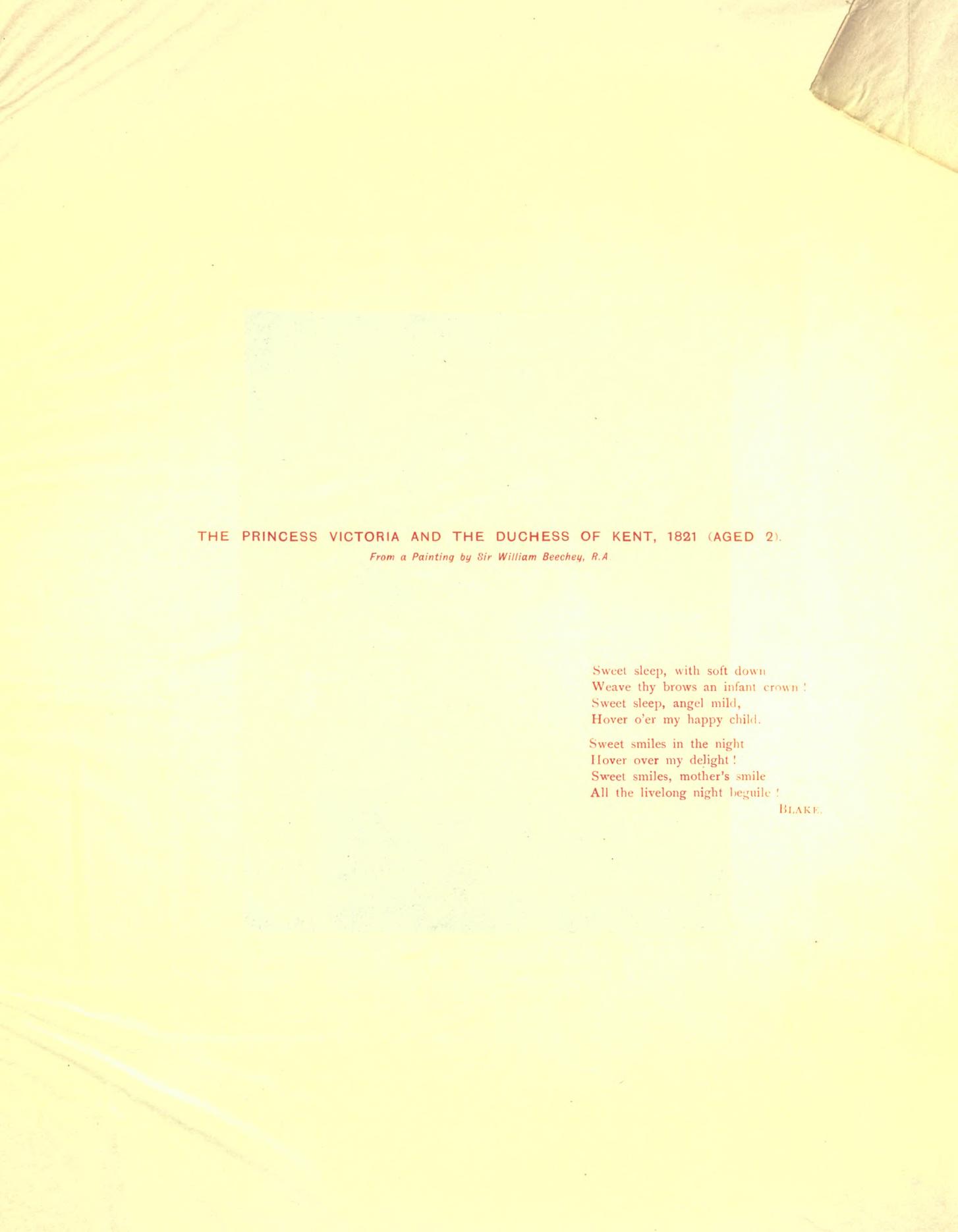


ICTORIA was born in Kensington Palace on the 24th of May, 1819. Her parents had been living at Amorbach, in Franconia, owing to the Duke of Kent's straitened circumstances, but they returned to this country on purpose that their child should be born an Englishwoman, and the Duke was so anxious for the safety of his wife that he himself drove the carriage over all the land part of the journey from Bavaria to London. Edward, Duke of Kent, was the fourth son of George III.; his wife was the Princess Victoria Maria Louisa of Coburg, who had been married a first time to Prince Enrich Charles of Leiningen, and by him had two children. The newspapers, announcing in a few meagre lines the birth of the Duke of Kent's baby, stated that the Archbishop of Canterbury had been present at the Palace during the occurrence, as the constitutional usage is, when an heir-presumptive to the Crown is born; yet the event was not considered at the time one of great importance, for several lives and many possibilities stood between the infant and her chance of succeeding to the throne. George III. was still alive—aged, blind, and insane; and two brothers of the Prince Regent, older than the Duke of Kent, were living also. The first of these, the Duke of York, was not likely to have children; but the Duke of Clarence had been married on the same day as the Duke of Kent to the Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, and he was to have two daughters, both of whom, however, died during infancy. The question as to what name the Duke of Kent's child should bear was not settled without bickerings. The Duke of Kent wished her to be christened Elizabeth, after England's greatest Queen; but the Tsar Alexander I. had promised to stand sponsor, and his Ambassador in London, Prince Lieven, made a great fuss to get the child named Alexandrina. On the other hand, the

Prince Regent desired that his niece should be called Georgiana. In the end the Regent yielded to the Tsar, but said that as the name of George could stand second to none other, that of Georgiana should not be conferred at all. The baptism was performed in a drawing-room of Kensington Palace on the 24th of June by Dr. Manners-Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, who used the gold font which figures among the Regalia in the Tower. The Prince Regent, who was present, named the child Alexandrina; then, being respectfully requested by the Duke of Kent to give a second name, he said, rather abruptly, "Let her be called Victoria, after her mother, but this name must come after the other," upon which the Duke of York, as proxy for the Emperor of Russia, made a low bow. All the sponsorship was done by proxy, for the infant's two godmothers, the Dowager Queen of Würtemberg and the Duchess Dowager of Coburg, were represented by the Princess Augusta and the Duchess Dowager of Gloucester respectively. Six weeks after her christening the Princess was vaccinated—an event which must be mentioned because it was the first occasion on which a member of the Royal Family underwent this operation, and it helped greatly to diminish the prejudice against Jenner's discovery amongst ignorant people. In December of the same year the Duke and Duchess of Kent, anxious to remove their child from the London winter fogs, repaired to Woolbrook-cottage, Sidmouth—a pleasant marine villa on the east coast of Devon; and here the infant Princess was within an inch of being killed by a boy shooting at birds with a bow and arrows. One of these arrows going astray flew through a window at which the child was being held by her nurse, and it had been shot with such force that it stuck in the canvas of a picture on the wall of the room. This accident greatly flurried the Duke of Kent, a worthy but nervous Prince, whose sense of his own dignity had been much enhanced by the birth of his little girl. "Do you know your catechism, boy? Tell me, then, who paid you to shoot that arrow? . . . Eh, eh, what?" In these words his Royal Highness addressed the youthful sportsman, and it was some time before he could be convinced that no foul deed had been intended.

The Duke of Kent was at this date fifty-two years old, having, like all his brothers, a portly figure and a double chin; he was, moreover, the baldest of the family, as can be seen by the picture of him in the National Portrait Gallery, and it was this that suggested Sheridan's spiteful little joke about grass not growing upon deserts. The Duke

heard of this pleasantry, and remarked mildly, "If Sheridan means that I haven't genius, I can tell him that such a gift would have been of small value to a Prince, whose business it is to keep quiet. I am luckier in having, like my country, a sound constitution." His constitution, however, was less solid than he thought, for in January, 1820, having caught cold from sitting two hours in wet boots to read a packet of Hanoverian newspapers, his system broke down all of a sudden, and he died five days before his brother, the Prince Regent, succeeded to the throne as George IV.



THE PRINCESS VICTORIA AND THE DUCHESS OF KENT, 1821 (AGED 2).

From a Painting by Sir William Beechey, R.A.

Sweet sleep, with soft down
Weave thy brows an infant crown !
Sweet sleep, angel mild,
Hover o'er my happy child.

Sweet smiles in the night
Hover over my delight !
Sweet smiles, mother's smile
All the livelong night beguile !

BLAKE.



Walter J. Colls. P. Sc.

EARLY YEARS



HE widowed Duchess of Kent was no longer in her first youth. She was a woman of thirty-four, handsome, homely, a German at heart, and with so little liking for English ways that the prospect of a life-long residence in this country was at first distressing to her. But she was a woman of experience and shrewd; she understood the duties that were going to devolve upon her in the education of her child, and fortunately she had in her brother, Prince Leopold of Coburg, afterwards King of the Belgians, a safe and affectionate adviser. This Prince's position in England had become a peculiar and painful one. He had been the husband of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, daughter of the Regent and direct heir to the British Crown, who died in 1817 with her new-born child, and this double bereavement had destroyed both his domestic happiness and his political expectations, leaving him with a doubtful *status* and no definite work to do. He wandered about the country with a forlorn look on his thin, keen face, and people eyed him with a respectful pity as a melancholy young man who was going to die of consumption. Prince Leopold in his sorrow had never had the courage to look upon the face of his infant niece, and he was fretting in Scotland when he heard of her father's death; but on receiving the news he at once hurried southward, and from that day he took the child under his guardianship, lavishing as much devotion on her as if she had been his own daughter.

The Prince lived at Claremont, and this became the Duchess of Kent's occasional home; but she was much addicted to travelling, and spent several months every year in visits to watering places. It was said at Court that she liked the demonstrative homage of crowds; but the truth was that she had good reason to fear her child would be taken away from her to be educated according to the views of George IV. Between this King and his sister-in-law there was little

love. The spirited Duchess had never concealed her dislike for his Majesty's character, or her contempt for his associates of both sexes, and she had also managed to make an enemy of the ill-natured Duke of Cumberland, whom the King feared for his cutting tongue. The Duke sought to embitter his brother's mind against the Duchess of Kent, and when the death of the Duke of Clarence's two children, in 1820 and 1821, had made it pretty certain that Princess Victoria would become Queen, the Duchess felt that the King might possibly obtain the support of his Ministers if he insisted that the future Sovereign should be brought up under masters and mistresses designated by himself. "That would mean by a set of Lady Conyngham's choosing," the Duchess used to exclaim, and she would add that she liked to be in places where she could appeal to the "rough and ready help of an English mob if some tipstaff came with an order from the Privy Council requiring her to give up her little girl."

There can be little doubt that such an order was contemplated, for, as the author of "The Greville Memoirs" says, George IV. was in temper a thorough despot; but the Duke of Wellington always took the Duchess's part and dwelt on the great confidence which statesmen of all parties felt in Prince Leopold. It might be curious to speculate as to the effects which would have been wrought on the Princess had she received an education expressly designed to train her for Royal duties. If ten wise men had been consulted nine of them would have declared that the heiress to a throne ought certainly to be brought up in view of her mighty destinies; and yet the Princess could not have received a better education than that which was given her under Prince Leopold's direction, and which tended to make her simply an accomplished lady. Her uncle considered that she ought to be kept as long as possible from the knowledge of her position, which might raise a large growth of pride or vanity in her and make her unmanageable; so Victoria was twelve years old before she knew that she was to wear a crown. Sir Walter Scott, having dined with the Duchess of Kent in 1829, made the following entry in his diary:—

I was very kindly received by Prince Leopold and presented to the little Princess Victoria—the heir apparent to the Crown as things now stand. This little lady is educating with much care and watched so closely that no busy maid has a moment to whisper, "You are heir of England." But I suspect that if we could dissect the little heart we should find some pigeon or other bird of the air had carried the matter.

Scott was wrong in this conjecture, but quite right in saying that the Princess was jealously watched. Until she became Queen she

never slept a night away from her mother's room, and she was not allowed to converse with any grown-up person, friend, tutor or servant without the Duchess of Kent or the Baroness Lehzen, her private governess, being present. When she walked in Kensington-gardens she was closely followed by footmen. Leigh Hunt, who met her near the Bayswater-gate in 1828 holding another little girl by the hand, noticed that she was escorted by a magnificent scarlet footman "with calves like lamp-globes." Even Charlotte, Duchess of Northumberland (wife of the third Duke), who had been appointed the Princess's official governess, complained in after years that she had never known much of the child. "She was not my pupil, but Lehzen's; it's Lehzen here, Lehzen there, always Lehzen."

Miss Lehzen, a native of Coburg, had come to England as governess to the Princess Feodore of Leiningen, the Duchess of Kent's daughter by her first husband, and she became teacher to the Princess Victoria when the latter was five years old. George IV. afterwards made her a Baroness of Hanover. She was a clever, sharp, active little woman, of voluble tongue and masterful energy, with green eyes that stared suspiciously at people like two points of interrogation. At her death in 1870 the Queen wrote of her:—

"She knew me from six months old, and from my fifth to my eighteenth years devoted all her care and energies to me with most wonderful abnegation of self, never even taking one day's holiday. I adored, though I was greatly in awe of her. She really seemed to have no thought but for me."

The Baroness's only weakness, according to Sir John Conroy, the Duchess of Kent's secretary, was for German food, "messes of new potatoes stewed with prunes and the like"; her strong points were a frosty serenity and a smile like the sun in February. She knew that people envied her position, and sometimes tried to offend her; but with masculine determination she never let them see that they had succeeded. She was an expert diplomatist too, and ingratiated herself with George IV., who, on two or three occasions when she visited Windsor with her pupil, congratulated her in grandiloquent terms on the excellent education which she was imparting. The little Princess Drina (from Alexandrina), as she was called till her ninth year, at first took all her lessons in German, and she learnt to speak her native tongue with such a Teutonic accent that she made her uncles laugh by saying "Goot mornink." But this peculiarity wore off when in her tenth year she was placed under English masters. The Rev. George Davys, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough, taught her Latin; Mr. J. B.

Sale, music ; Mr. Westall, history ; and Mr. Thomas Seward, the writing master of Westminster School, gave her instructions in penmanship, and often amused her by relating the pranks played by the King's Scholars on Edward the Confessor's foundation. In all her studies the Princess was diligent, but she exhibited a special aptitude for modern languages, music, and drawing. She grew up to be a good linguist, she sketched cleverly, and she sang with a pretty voice and a correctness which in later years drew a surprised compliment from Mendelssohn.

George IV. complained that he did not see enough of his niece, and in 1829 he insisted that she should be present at a children's party which he gave in honour of Dona Maria da Gloria, the little Queen of Portugal, who was then aged ten, having been born in the same year as Victoria. Her small Majesty was a pretty child, but she got a fall in dancing, turned cross, and went away ; the English Princess, on the other hand, though observed to be "a short, plain child," won good opinions from everybody by her sweetness of temper. "She's just like me in that," remarked his Majesty innocently to his doctor and confidant Knighton, and he said something about buying the little girl "a bushel of pearls for her next birthday," which kindly intention he forgot to fulfil. In the following year this queer Monarch died. His coronation had cost the country £240,000 and his debts at different times two millions. He had no notion of what he possessed or spent. Among his effects were found more than five hundred pocket books of different dates and in every one of them money—guineas and notes—about £10,000 in all. His other relics, says Charles Greville, were "a prodigious quantity of hair—women's hair, of all colours and lengths—some locks with the powder and pomatum still sticking to them ; also heaps of women's gloves, which he had got at balls, *billets doux*, &c." "He did some good," observed an apologist after his death. "Oh, yes," answered Theodore Hook, "he made his subjects merry when they heard him prayed for as 'Our most religious and gracious King.' "

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV



ILLIAM IV. having ascended the throne, the Princess Victoria became his heir. A Regency Bill was introduced into Parliament by Lord Lyndhurst, Chancellor in the Duke of Wellington's Administration, and it was judged that the Princess ought now to be told of her proper place in the order of succession. One day the Baroness Lehzen put a genealogical table into her pupil's English History. What followed is mentioned in a note to Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort":—

The Princess opened the book and perceiving the additional paper, said:—"I never saw that before." "It was not thought necessary that you should, Madam," answered her governess. "I see I am nearer the throne than I thought," continued the Princess, and after some moments resumed:—"Now, many a child would boast, but they don't know the difficulty. There is much splendour, but there is more responsibility." The Princess having lifted up the forefinger of her right hand while she spoke, gave the Baroness her little hand, repeating:—"I will be good. I understand now why you urged me so much to learn even Latin. My aunts, Mary and Augusta, never did; but you told me Latin is the foundation of English grammar and of all elegant expressions, and I learned it as you wished it, but I understand all better now," and the Princess gave her hand, repeating, "I will be good." The governess then said:—"But your Aunt Adelaide is still young and may have children, and of course they would ascend the throne after their father, William IV., and not you, Princess." The Princess answered, "And if it were so I should not be disappointed, for I know by the love Aunt Adelaide bears me how fond she is of children."

Queen Adelaide was a very good woman. When the second of her children died she had written to the Duchess of Kent:—"My children are dead, but your child lives and she is mine too." Kind old William IV. also cherished affectionate feelings towards his niece; unfortunately he took offence at the Duchess of Kent for declining to let her child come and live at his Court for several months in each

year, and through the whole of his reign there was strife between the two. Prince Leopold was no longer in England to act as peacemaker. He had been induced, after refusing the crown of Greece, to open a new career for himself as King of the Belgians; and though he continued to exercise a great influence over his sister by means of letters, both wise and long, this was not quite the same thing as if he had been present in person to administer soothing words when she felt aggrieved. There was a first dispute about money matters, and the Duchess failing to get an addition of more than £10,000 a year to her allowance complained that she was being shabbily treated.

On the 24th of February, 1831, the Princess Victoria for the first time attended a Drawing Room, and the King was angry because the Duchess of Kent behaved coldly to him, and, as he declared, "made little Victoria look at him stonily." Soon afterwards there was trouble because the Duchess received Royal salutes from the ships at Portsmouth when she went to the Isle of Wight. William IV. was much incensed at this, and negotiations were opened with her Royal Highness to make her forego these honours; but she stood on her rights, whereupon the King somewhat ungallantly ordered that no more gunpowder should be burned for her pleasure. Those who know anything of Courts need not be told how much time and temper were consumed over quarrels of this sort. Emissaries journeyed between Windsor and Kensington, long letters were written, the Duke of Wellington as *arbiter omnium* was referred to, and as fast as the fire was extinguished in one direction it broke out in another. The Duchess had settled at Kensington Palace, and the King was displeased at her appropriating a suite of seventeen rooms without his permission. In 1834, when the Princess was confirmed in the chapel of St. James's Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury, his Majesty felt hurt because the Duchess did not seize this opportunity of confessing her imputed wrongs and suing for a reconciliation. To make matters worse, the Duchess and her daughter spent a great part of 1834 and 1835 in rounds of visits to the country houses of the nobility, and certain mischievous busybodies persuaded the King that the object of these expeditions was to undermine his popularity. As a matter of fact, the Duchess of Kent had too much tact ever to speak of the King with disrespect, and her visits to Belvoir, Holkham, Burghley, Chatsworth, Alton Towers, Walmer, and other places were undertaken because it seemed good that the Princess should become acquainted with the leading members of the aristocracy. It was equally desirable that the

foremost among the King's subjects should see for themselves that their future Queen had been properly educated, that she was no German mispronouncing her native tongue, that she had no domineering spirit or unorthodox religious opinions, and, above all, that she evinced no disposition to marry a Roman Catholic prince.

What fables may not be circulated about a young girl who is to wear a crown? The newspapers of the time bear evidence of the inordinate curiosity that was felt by the public as to all that concerned the Princess, and Lord Melbourne said that he constantly had to answer foolish questions about the Princess that were put to him by people who ought to have known better. Two earls and a bishop came to him one day and assured him that they had received the most positive information touching a scheme for marrying the Princess Victoria to a German prince who was but nominally a Lutheran, having privately abjured his faith, "and I had to listen seriously," said the Premier, "for if I had made light of the matter I should have had ten times that number of bishops and twenty times that number of earls wanting to know if I was sound on the subject of Protestant succession." The Duchess of Kent by taking her daughter to visit the nobility in their country homes, where they had better opportunities for studying the young lady's character than they would have had in London drawing-rooms, dispelled all ill-natured rumours, and she satisfied everybody whose opinion was of weight that the Princess's training had in all points been excellent. In fact, too great praise cannot be given to the Duchess as a mother. She could not be expected to think on British politics as an Englishwoman, and yet she had carefully watched that her daughter should be inoculated with no foreign ideas about government—that she should conceive no preference for, or prejudice against, either party in the State.

For all this, William IV.'s resentment against the Duchess of Kent only increased as the Princess grew older, and it found vent at last in a very violent and undignified attack on the Duchess at his own table. In 1836 the Princess Victoria had failed to attend two drawing rooms, and the Duchess had refused an invitation to spend a few days at Windsor on the occasion of Queen Adelaide's birthday. But she and her daughter were present at a banquet given on the 20th August; and there the King, returning thanks for the drinking of his health, made a lachrymose speech, in which he railed at his sister-in-law for being his enemy. "I hope," he continued with growing excitement, "that I may live at least nine months longer, until my dear niece is of age, so that

there may be no Regency. A person near me (the Duchess) is surrounded by evil counsellors, and is unfit to exercise the duties of her station." This amazing outburst might have given rise to the most serious conjectures if the Princess Victoria had not been already well known to a large circle of public men. The words "evil counsellors" lay open to any construction that party malice might put upon them. As it was, they were ascribed by those who heard of them to mere senile peevishness, and their only effect was to destroy all chance of a good understanding between the King and the mother of the future Queen.

In May, 1837, the Duchess received an address from the City of London, congratulating her on the majority of her daughter, and in her reply she hinted that she had been friendless when she arrived in England, and had since that time met with kindness only from the nation, not from the Royal Family. Exasperated at this, William IV. vowed he would hold no more terms with the Duchess. The amount of the Princess's allowance was under discussion at the time, and the Duchess desired to be appointed trustee for her daughter; but the King declared that the Princess should have £10,000 a year for her own sole use uncontrolled, and he wrote her a private letter to this effect in fatherly terms. The Marquis of Conyngham, Lord Chamberlain, bore the missive to Kensington, and the Duchess of Kent held out her hand to receive it. "The King's commands are that I should deliver the letter to the Princess Victoria," said Lord Conyngham as coldly as possible, and he did this. The Princess had never before had an unopened letter put into her hands. Before breaking the seal she turned with an affectionate gesture towards her mother, as if to beg her permission; and eventually, by the Duchess's advice, a grateful answer was written, thanking the King for his intended kindness. But the allowance was never settled, as four weeks later William IV. died.

The Times of June 20 in recording his death said:—

He was not a man of talent or of much refinement; but he was diligent, and laboured at that which he considered his duty to comprehend. Sincere in his declarations and of inoffensive nature, he displayed no gross, nor great, nor memorable attributes. But he had a warm heart, and it was an English heart.

Posterity has ratified this judgment, nothing adding to or detracting from it. William IV. was English after the manner of a sailor, who could not separate religion from patriotism, nor patriotism from fighting. Five days before his death he said to his doctor, "I know I

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1825 (AGED 6).

From a Painting by William Fowler.

Who can foretell for what high cause
This darling of the Gods was born?

A. MARVELL.



Walter Scott Esq. R.A.

am going, but I should like to see another anniversary of Waterloo ; try if you cannot tinker me up at least till that day." He would not let the Waterloo Banquet be postponed on account of his illness, but sent a message to the Duke of Wellington saying he hoped his Grace and guests would have a good dinner. The thoughts of his last hours dwelt often on his niece, and he repeatedly said that he was sure she would be "a good woman and a good Queen." "It will touch every sailor's heart to have a girl Queen to fight for. They'll be tattooing her face on their arms, and I'll be bound they'll all think she was christened after Nelson's ship." He wanted much to see his niece at his bedside, and at 12 o'clock on Monday, the 19th, an express was sent to Kensington, commanding the Princess Victoria's immediate attendance. The Duchess of Kent chose to ignore this order, though she subsequently explained this apparent want of good feeling by saying that the commands had not been brought to her in the King's name, and that she had not understood his Majesty was at the point of death. It had been her intention to go to Windsor on the following day, but William IV. died in the night.

THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION



HE King died at about 2 a.m., and half-an-hour afterwards Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Marquis of Conyngham started in a landau with four horses for Kensington, which they reached at 5 o'clock. The sun broke from behind clouds and shed a glory over the old red brick palace as they drove up to it, and the Archbishop noted this as a good omen. Lord Conyngham observed that the proclamation would take place on the morrow, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year, which was of happy augury too. For a long time, however, the two dignitaries who came to hail the girl Queen could not rouse the porter at the gate. Their servants rang, knocked, and thumped; and when at last admittance was gained, the Primate and the Marquis were shown into a lower room and there left to wait. Presently a maid appeared and said that the Princess Victoria was "in a sweet sleep and could not be disturbed." Dr. Howley, who was nothing if not pompous, and who, being attired in his rochet, was vexed that this garment had not obtained for him more respectful treatment, answered with some warmth that he had come on State business, to which everything, even sleep, must give place. The Princess was accordingly roused, and quickly came downstairs in a dressing-gown, her fair hair flowing loose over her shoulders. The Duchess of Kent accompanied her, likewise *en déshabille*, and in a few minutes the ever-vigilant Baroness Lehzen entered upon the scene with a bottle of sal volatile and the words "Your Majesty" gushing from her lips. The young Queen shed tears on hearing the Archbishop's very solemn announcement, and for a few moments she stood weeping in silence, with her face resting on her mother's shoulder. "I felt no exultation, but something like fear," she wrote a few days later to her uncle Leopold. "I wished to ask the Archbishop to offer up a prayer.

I had made up my mind to do this whenever the sad news should come, but I grew confused from hearing Mme. von Lehzen address me by my new title and ask Lord Conyngham for details." The Queen's first care on regaining composure was to write a letter of condolence to Queen Adelaide, and she addressed this letter "To her Majesty the Queen." Somebody had the bad taste to suggest that the word "Dowager" should be added. "I will not be the first to remind my aunt of the great loss she has sustained," answered her Majesty, thus evincing at the outset of her reign the kindly tact which ever distinguished her public and private conduct.

She was at the time of her accession in her nineteenth year, of pleasing countenance without being pretty, and of dignified deportment without constraint in her movements. She had blue eyes and a rosy complexion ; she smiled readily, and had a gentle, wistful glance, which always seemed to solicit the approbation of those to whom she spoke and turned quickly to astonishment or sadness if she met no genial response. Her dancing mistress, Mlle. Bourdin, had taught her to walk, bow, and curtsey in the French fashion—that is, with gracious inclinations of the head and cheerful looks (which were contrary to the etiquette of German Courts, where everything used to be done with rigid gravity)—but the happy vivacity of the Princess's disposition prevented any of her gestures from appearing artificial. She was always natural, and waived etiquette whenever it interfered with a free display of her impulses towards anybody whom she loved or honoured. Her demeanour throughout the trying day when she succeeded to the Throne excited general admiration by its modest self-possession and propriety.

The Privy Council assembled at Kensington at 11 o'clock ; and the usual oaths were administered to the Queen by Lord Chancellor Cottenham, after which all present did homage. There was a touching incident when the Queen's uncles, the Dukes of Cumberland and Sussex, two old men, came forward to perform their obeisance. The Queen blushed to the brow, and descending from her throne kissed them both, without allowing them to kneel. By the death of William IV. the Duke of Cumberland had become King of Hanover, and immediately after the ceremony he made haste to reach his kingdom. Within a fortnight of his arrival there he had revoked the Constitution of the country and wrote to his friend the Duke of Buckingham boasting that he had "cut the wings of democracy." Had Queen Victoria died without issue, this Prince, who was arrogant, ill-tempered, and rash,

would have become King of Great Britain ; and, as nothing but mischief could have resulted from this, one may understand how very precious the young Queen's life became in the sight of her people. She, of course, retained the late King's Ministers in their offices, and it was under Lord Melbourne's direction that the Privy Council drew up their declaration to the kingdom. It may be remarked of this document that it described the Queen as Alexandrina Victoria, and all the peers who subscribed the roll in the House of Lords on the 20th of June swore allegiance to her under those names. It was not till the following day that the Sovereign's style was altered to Victoria simply, and this necessitated the issuing of a new declaration and a re-signing of the peer's roll.

The public proclamation of the Queen took place on the 21st at St. James's Palace with great pomp, and it proved a severe ordeal for the nerves of a delicate girl still under her mother's care. Crowds lined the whole route from Kensington, which then stood quite in the suburbs ; and from Hyde Park Corner, where the masses became more dense, the young Queen, in her open carriage, was greeted with cheers so loud and hearty that by the time she reached St. James's she was all trembling with emotion. She appeared at a window in the courtyard of the Palace, dressed in deep mourning, with a white tippet, white cuffs, and a border of white lace under her small black bonnet ; and everybody noticed how pale she was. Sir Ralph Bigland, Garter King, made his proclamation according to the quaint old forms, in presence of the Lord Mayor of London and Sheriffs, the great officers of State and a cohort of heralds ; and when his concluding words were followed by a blare of trumpets and the acclamations of a loyal crowd thronging all the approaches to the Palace, the Queen's fortitude for a moment forsook her. It was in allusion to this that Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote her pretty lines about the child-Queen who "wept to wear a crown" :—

She saw no purple shine,
For tears had dimmed her eyes ;
She only knew her childhood's flowers
Were happier pageantries.
And while the heralds played their part,
For million shouts to drown—
"God save the Queen" from hill to mart,
She heard, through all, her beating heart ;
And turned and wept ;
She wept to wear a crown.

God save thee, weeping Queen,
Thou shalt be well beloved !
The tyrant's sceptre cannot move,
As those pure tears have moved.
The nature in thine eyes we see,
Which tyrants cannot own,
The love that guardeth liberties ;
Great blessing on the Nation lies,
Whose Sovereign wept,
Yes, wept to wear a crown.

LORD MELBOURNE AND THE QUEEN



T the time of the Queen's accession Lord Melbourne's second Ministry had been in office two years. In 1835 it had succeeded Sir Robert Peel's first Administration, which had been defeated on Lord John Russell's Bill for dealing with the temporalities of the Irish Church. Lord John Russell was Home Secretary, Lord Palmerston held the Seals of the Foreign Office, the veteran Lord Lansdowne was Lord President, and Lord Holland, powerful by his social influence, was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. The Cabinet nominally commanded a good majority in the House of Commons, but it was not popular with the country, and at the General Election which took place in July, 1837 (in pursuance of the constitutional law which then required that the death of a Sovereign should be followed by a dissolution of Parliament), the Ministerial majority was reduced to fourteen. The reproach against Lord Melbourne was for his want of nerve; his policy was one of hand-to-mouth expedients; his Ministry were weak in finance, and they had disappointed the advanced section of their party by taking their stand on the Reform Bill of 1832 as a measure of finality. They also set their faces against the Ballot, which was in those days the test question by which a thoroughgoing Reformer was known.

The true cause for the weakness of the Whigs lay, however, in the towering personal ascendancy of the two Tory leaders—the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. A foreign statesman described the influence which the former exercised in the councils of Europe as *un Agamemnonat*. In England there was a popular feeling that in all great national emergencies "the Duke" must be consulted, and this gave him a position above parties. In the House of Lords he was supreme. Not only did his words carry great weight, but he generally had the proxies of about thirty peers in his keeping, and could thus

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1826 (AGED 7).

Engraved by Woolnothe, after a Miniature by Anthony Stewart.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1829 (AGED 10).

From a Drawing by R. T. Lane, R.A.

Queen rose of the rosebud garden of girls,
Come hither, the dances are done,
In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls.
Queen lily and rose in one;
Shine out, little head, sunning over with curls,
To the flowers, and be their sun.

TENNYSON.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1830 (AGED 11).

From a Painting by William Fowler.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1832 (AGED 13).

From an Etching by J. Forn.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1866 (AGED 27).
A portrait of the Princess Victoria, Queen of Prussia, in a white dress, seated in a chair, holding a fan.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1866 (AGED 27).
A portrait of the Princess Victoria, Queen of Prussia, in a white dress, seated in a chair, holding a fan.

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at all times control a division. In the House of Commons the power of Sir Robert Peel was, comparatively speaking, hardly less than that of the Duke in the Lords. "Dignified without elegance," as Guizot tersely described him—a tall, portly man, wealthy, full of scholarship, quick at figures, a master of words and of periphrases in which he could clothe his meaning so as to hide it and rid himself of compromising responsibilities—he seemed to most of his countrymen the embodiment of respectability and of square sense. It has been well said that he owed much of his popularity to this—that he never far outstripped his contemporaries, and was generally at any given moment a very fair representative of any given Englishman of average knowledge and ability. Against such a champion, backed by an enthusiastic following of the ablest young men in Parliament—among whom were Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, who in 1837 took his seat as M.P. for Maidstone—Lord John Russell, with his captious earnestness, and Lord Palmerston, with his airy John-Bullism, found it hard work to contend. Ponderous and plausible, Peel had a talent for making Lord John appear mean, and Palmerston flippant; he could always raise a laugh against the one, and bring the other's prudence under suspicion; so that, all things considered, it was more surprising that the Whigs should have remained in office so long than that they should have been feeble in their rule. So far as concerned Lord Melbourne personally, it was a positive disadvantage to him that from the first he ingratiated himself with the young Queen, and thereby exposed himself to unreasoning party jealousies.

Lord Melbourne was an amiable, warm-hearted man. Biographers have published his domestic troubles, and everybody has read the story of how, when a deed of separation was being drawn up between him and his wife, the lawyers who entered his study with the instrument found him reclining on a sofa, while Lady Melbourne, seated on his knee, was feeding him with bread and butter. There was a double danger that a man of such winning character might either yield too much to the Court, or by the charm of his manner domineer over the Sovereign and give her mind a bias towards his party. The Tories feared the latter contingency; Lord Brougham, Mr. Roebuck, and all ardent Liberals expressed their misgivings as to the former.

The Queen opened her first Parliament in person, and in a well-written speech, which she read with much feeling, adverted to her youth and to the necessity which existed for her being guided by enlightened advisers. When both Houses had voted loyal addresses,

the question of the Civil List was considered, and a week or two later a message was brought to Parliament requesting an increase of the grant formerly made to the Duchess of Kent. Government recommended an addition of £30,000 a year, and this led to an angry scene in the Lords between Brougham and Melbourne. Brougham alluded to the "Queen Mother," upon which Melbourne interrupted, saying, "Mother of the Queen," which is very different. "I confess I am but rude of speech," answered Brougham. "My noble friend is much more of a courtier; his tongue is better hung; he is well acquainted with the motions of those who glaze and fawn and bend the knee in Courts." Stung to the quick, Melbourne retorted that he knew "of no man in the country who could more glaze and flatter and bend the knee" than Brougham.

The proposed addition was voted, and before the close of the year a Civil List Bill was passed, settling £385,000 a year on her Majesty, Mr. Hume's motion for reducing that grant by £50,000 mustering only nineteen votes. The remainder of the Session was engrossed by the affairs of Canada, where disturbances had arisen so serious that had it not been for the romantic loyalty entertained towards the girl-Queen by the majority of her Transatlantic subjects it is probable that the colony would have been lost to us. The troubles arose through the opposition offered by the Legislature of Lower Canada to some resolutions carried in the House of Commons in March, 1836. The House of Commons had declined to make the Council of Lower Canada elective, to continue the Charter of the Land Company, or to authorise the Provincial Government to dispose on its own responsibility of certain moneys in the Treasury. Excited meetings were held all over the colony, armed riots took place, and the Ministry introduced a Bill making temporary provision for the government of Lower Canada. At the same time the Earl of Durham, a Whig nobleman, endowed with more oratorical ability than administrative talent, was sent out as Governor-General and High Commissioner for regulating the affairs of the Upper and Lower Provinces. It was characteristic of Lord Brougham that, after attacking the Canada Bill with arguments indicating his dislike for the retention by England of distant colonies, he inveighed against Ministers for not arming Lord Durham with powers extensive enough. He quoted the account of Gasca's mission to quell Pizarro's revolt in South America, "a service which Gasca performed by the exercise of unlimited powers wisely entrusted to him by Charles V." These words reported in Canada were not calculated

to allay disaffection; but the Royalists were strong, and they had repressed the revolts before Lord Durham landed. The Governor-General then promulgated some Ordinances, which decreed that twenty-one ringleaders of the rebellion should be exiled to Bermuda, and that if they returned to Canada without licence they should be adjudged guilty of high treason and be put to death untried. This arbitrary proceeding was worthy of Gasca, but when a copy of the decree reached England Lord Brougham was the first to denounce it, and he rapidly carried through the House of Lords, by a majority of eighteen against the Government, a Bill which was practically a censure on Lord Durham. In consequence of this Lord Durham resigned, and the whole affair gave the Queen her first insight into some of the curious tactics of party warfare.

Party strife commenced soon on a matter that more closely concerned her—that of her marriage. Ministers were accused in all seriousness of trying to win Irish votes by dallying with the idea of a Catholic marriage, and they got many a pointed reminder from the Press that the throne would become vacant if such a project were carried out. It had long been arranged, however, between the Duchess of Kent and her brothers, King Leopold and the Duke of Coburg, that the Queen should marry her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, and the Prince himself had been made acquainted with this plan from his earliest years. When he was three years old his nurse used to prattle to him about "the little May Flower," his destined bride in England. In 1836 Prince Albert, who was born in the same year as his future wife, had come on a visit to England with his father and with his brother, Prince Ernest, and his handsome face, gentle disposition, and playful humour had produced a favourable impression on the Princess, who, a few days after his departure, was frankly informed by King Leopold of the hopes which he cherished as to her marriage. The Princess's answer to her uncle (June 7, 1836) left no doubt that her own heart was inclined to the scheme. "I have only now to beg you, my dearest uncle, to take care of the health of one now so dear to me and to take him under your special protection. I hope and trust that all will go on prosperously as to this subject, which is now of such importance to me."

The Duchess of Kent had communicated her projects to Lord Melbourne, and they were known to many other statesmen and to persons in society; but society is always sceptical as to matrimonial plans arranged for young ladies of great rank and wealth by their

elders, and the gossip of drawing-rooms during the years 1837-38 continually represented that the young Queen had resolved to choose for herself, that she had fallen in love with Prince This or Lord That, and the more imaginative babblers hinted at post-chaises waiting outside Kensington-gardens in the night, private marriages, and so forth. Ordinary people who knew nothing of Court arrangements caught excitedly at these rumours, and, after all, the public preoccupation as to the Queen's marriage was most legitimate, considering how much the nation might have suffered had she been moved to an unlucky choice. Sundry foreign ambassadors made no scruple about trying to supplant Prince Albert by urging the claims of Princes related to their respective masters, and Sir John Conroy, by reason of his supposed influence as secretary to the Duchess of Kent, became an assiduously courted and much-worried man.

It is not certain that Ministers were altogether exempt from uneasiness touching the ambitious designs of certain English peers, and one of these in particular, by his personal graces and adventurous spirit, laid himself open to so much suspicion that he was earnestly entreated to accept an appointment in India. Among the more eccentric suitors of the Queen (of whom there were a ludicrous number who sent verses and bouquets) was a middle-aged widower, who owned property near Tunbridge Wells, and who haunted Kensington Gardens, rushing forward to make low bows and blow kisses whenever the Queen drove out. It says a good deal for the jealousy which Englishmen used to feel as to any interference with the liberty of the subject that this person was not collared by the police as he would have been in these days. Two constables, whose names have been preserved, Mount, T90, and Osborne, T174, were told off to protect her Majesty; but these worthy fellows, in glazed hats and blue swallow-tails, did no more than keep an eye on the widower. He persevered in his pranks for nearly a year, and one day he so much annoyed the Queen and her mother by following them out on a drive along the Harrow Road in his phaeton that they turned back, he pursuing their carriage all the way unabashed. It never occurred to anybody in authority that he ought to be prosecuted or shut up as a madman, and he ended by relinquishing his suit because it led to nothing.

THE CORONATION



THE Coronation of the Queen took place on the 28th of June, 1838, and the event served to impress deeply on the minds of foreign Princes—suitors or not—a notion of the English Sovereign's exalted and enviable position. No more touching ceremony of the kind had ever been performed in Westminster Abbey. Anne was a middle-aged, married woman at the time of her Coronation; she waddled and wheezed and made no majestic appearance upon her throne. Mary was odious to her Protestant subjects, Elizabeth to those of the unreformed religion; and both these Queens succeeded to the Crown in times of general sadness; but the youthful Queen Victoria had no enemies except a few crack-brained Chartists, and the land was peaceful and prosperous when she began to reign over it. The Earl Fitzwilliam had the moral courage to signalize himself by protesting against the Coronation as "a foolish, meaningless mummary," and he got a hard time of it in the House of Lords for these words, though he spoke them in loving loyalty as he declared. What he meant to say was that it was an idle thing for peers in the present age to go through a form of public homage to the Sovereign at an enormous expenditure of public money, and that a costly pageant was to be condemned as promoting extravagant hospitality, outlay in dress, &c., among the upper ranks of society. This was not the opinion of London tradesmen, who, having witnessed two Coronations in the course of seventeen years, wanted the third to eclipse the two former ones in splendour. A deputation of them, headed by the Marquis of Londonderry, waited upon the Home Secretary, and besought him that the solemnity might be held in August, during the holiday season, so that it should attract more people to London;

they further hinted that the Treasury ought to spend more than the £70,000 which had been provided on so interesting an occasion. It has already been mentioned that the cost of George IV.'s Coronation exceeded £240,000 ; that of William IV. had amounted to £50,000 only ; and in asking for £70,000 the Government had judged that things could be done with suitable luxury, but without waste. The traditional banquet in Westminster Hall, with the throwing down of the glove by the King's champion in armour, had been dispensed with at the Coronation of William IV., and it was resolved not to revive it, as the last banquet, at George IV.'s Coronation, had been rather an unruly feast, and the mail-clad champion's challenge to all mankind had provoked laughter. On the other hand, it was arranged that the Sovereign's procession to the Abbey through the streets should be made a finer show than on previous occasions ; and it drew to London 400,000 country visitors—an enormous number considering how few were the railways and how scanty was the hotel accommodation which the capital had to offer.

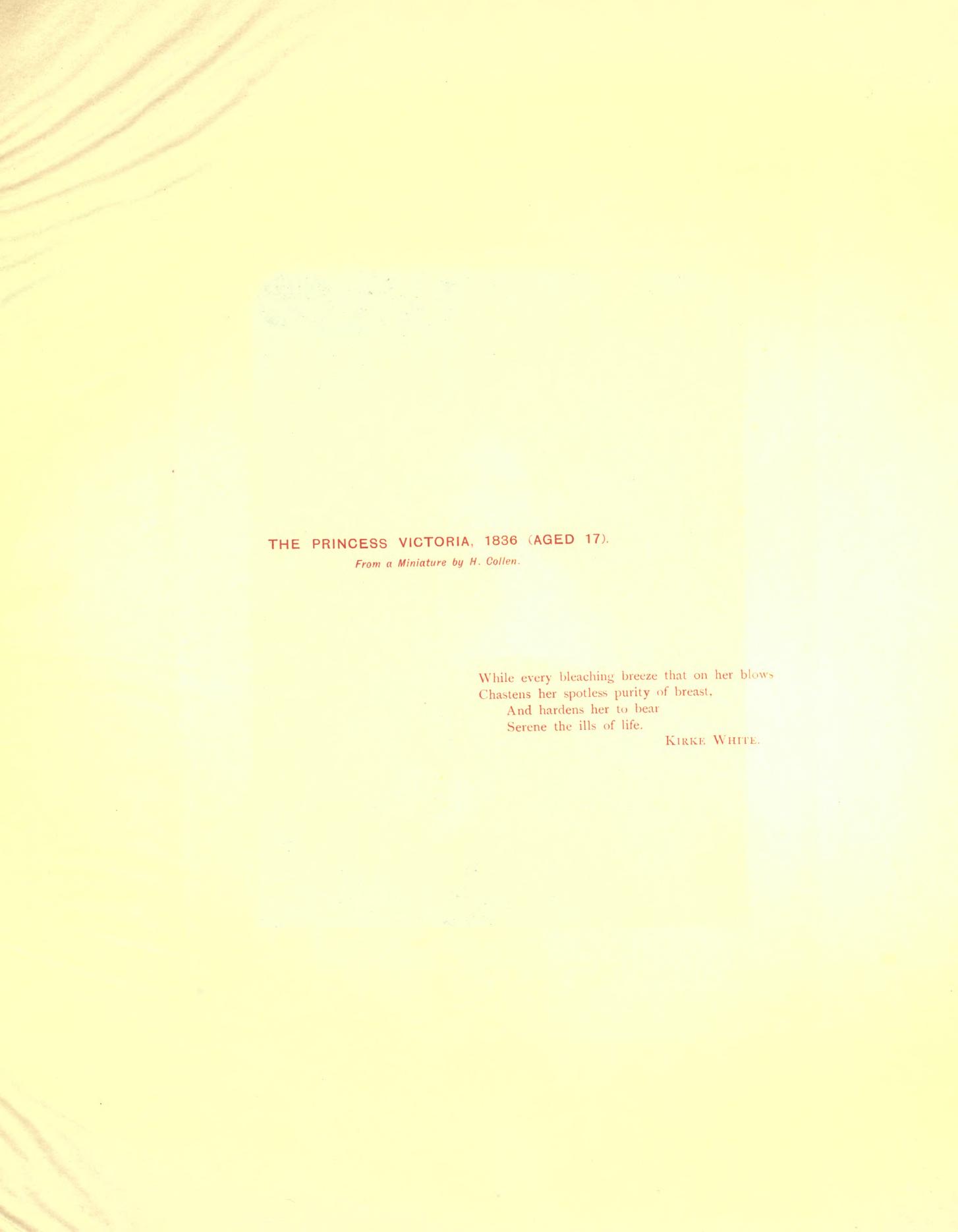
On the night of the 27th of June upwards of 40,000 people bivouacked in the streets, and long before daybreak a vast multitude thronged Whitehall and all the streets leading to the Abbey, but order was so well kept that no uninvited person forced his way into the sacred building. The privileged thousands who obtained admission were lucky in their generation, for they witnessed a sight hardly to be imagined for beauty and never to be forgotten as an historical event. Old-fashioned ceremonial and acts of humble obeisance seemed peculiarly besetting in the case of a young Queen. There was no act of duty, however humble, which men of rank and gravity could grudge towards a Sovereign with a fair girlish face ; and the consciousness that they were disporting themselves under approving eyes made all the dignitaries enter with a proper animation into the spirit of their parts. Lord Melbourne was perfect as he redeemed the sword of State with a hundred shillings. The Earl of Albemarle, Treasurer of the Household, knelt with a knightly grace to present the gold nugget of one-pound's weight, which the Queen was to put into the offertory plate ; and afterwards it was with a lordly air that he scattered among the crowds in the aisles handfuls of commemorative medals in gold and silver. This item in the proceedings, which will doubtless be omitted from future coronations in deference to the more respectful modern notions as to the sanctity of a church, caused much turbulent scrimmaging. Her Majesty's Judges, in their robes of scarlet and ermine, stretched

forth their hands with decorous langour to try to seize some of the flying momentos, but of course disdained to stoop and pick up anything from the floor; the Aldermen of London, less proud, sprawled over the flags in their furred gowns and grabbed one another by the sleeves in their rude scramble for the pieces.

The culminating point of the ceremony was that when, the Primate having placed the crown on the Queen's brow, the orb and sceptre in her two hands, all the peers and peeresses donned their coronets, and a deafening acclamation of "God Save the Queen" arose, to be repeated again and again, while the organ pealed forth the National Anthem. When the tumult had subsided, trains of peers ascended the steps of the throne to do their homage—first touching the crown with the right hand, then bending the knee and kissing the Queen's hand. At former coronations the peers had kissed the Sovereign's cheek, but it had been thought right to spare a young lady such salutes from five hundred gentlemen. Miss Harriet Martineau, who was among the spectators, and who was not usually of emotional turn, described the homage as "a most pretty sight," and she gives an account both touching and amusing of the one incident which, for a moment, marred it. Lord Rolle, a large, infirm old man, was held up by two peers, and had nearly reached the Royal footstool when he slipped through the hands of his supporters and rolled over and over down the steps, lying at the bottom coiled up in his robes. His disaster sent a shock through the assemblage. He was instantly lifted up, and he tried again and again to ascend the steps amid shouts of admiration at his valour. The Queen, having whispered to Lord Melbourne, rose, leaned forward and held out her hand to the old man, dispensing with his touching the crown. He was not hurt, and his self-quizzing on his misadventure was as brave as his conduct throughout. "A foreigner in London gravely reported to his countrymen—what he entirely believed on the word of a wag—that the Lords Rolle held their names and title on condition of *rolling* down the steps of the throne at every coronation."

Respecting foreigners, it may be remembered that three Ambassadors for different reasons became objects of great interest at the coronation. Marshal Soult, Wellington's old foe, received a hearty popular welcome as a military hero; Prince Esterhazy, who represented Austria, dazzled society by his Magyar uniform, which was encrusted all over, even to the boots, with pearls and diamonds; while the Turkish Ambassador, poor Sarim Effendi, caused much diversion

by his absolute bewilderment at the magnificence of the spectacle presented to his gaze. He was so wonder-struck that he could not walk to his place; but stood as if he had lost his senses, and kept muttering, "All this for a woman!" The glories of the Coronation were brought to an appropriate ending by all sorts of popular rejoicings, the most novel of which was a fair in Hyde Park, where the fun was kept up fast, furious, and noisy during four days and nights.



THE PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1836 (AGED 17).

From a Miniature by H. Callen.

While every bleaching breeze that on her blows
Chastens her spotless purity of breast,

And hardens her to bear
Serene the ills of life.

KIRKE WHITE.



Walter L. Colle, Ph. Sc.

THE BEDCHAMBER PLOT



ITHIN a year of the Coronation the Court was brought into sudden disfavour with the country by two events of unequal importance, but both exciting. The first was the case of Lady Flora Hastings. In February, 1839, this young lady, a daughter of the Marquis of Hastings and a Maid of Honour to the Duchess of Kent, was accused by certain Ladies of the Bedchamber of immoral conduct. The charge having been laid before Lord Melbourne he communicated it to Sir James Clark, the Queen's physician, and the result was that Lady Flora was subjected to the indignity of a medical examination, which, while it cleared her character, seriously affected her health. In fact, she died in the following July, and it was then discovered that the physical appearances which first provoked suspicion against her had been due to enlargement of the liver. The Queen's conduct towards Lady Flora was kind and sisterly from the beginning to the end of this painful business; but the scandal was made public through some indignant letters which the Marchioness of Hastings addressed to Lord Melbourne praying for the punishment of her daughter's traducers, and the general opinion was that Lady Flora had been grossly treated at the instigation of some private Court enemies.

While the agitation about the affair was yet unappeased, the political crisis known as the Bedchamber Plot occurred. The Whig Ministry had introduced a Bill suspending the Constitution of Jamaica because the Assembly in that colony had refused to adopt the Prisons Act, passed by the Imperial Legislature. Sir Robert Peel moved an amendment, which, on a division (6th of May), was defeated by a majority of five only in a House of 583, and Ministers thereupon resigned. The Duke of Wellington was first sent for, but he advised

that the task of forming an Administration should be entrusted to Sir Robert Peel. Sir Robert was ready to form a Cabinet in which the Duke of Wellington, Lords Lyndhurst, Aberdeen, and Stanley, and Sir James Graham would have served; but he stipulated that the Mistress of the Robes and the Ladies of the Bedchamber appointed by the Whig Administration should be removed, and to this the Queen would not consent. On the 10th of May she wrote curtly that the course proposed by Sir Robert Peel was contrary to usage and repugnant to her feelings; the Tory leader then had to inform the House of Commons that, having failed to obtain the proof which he desired of her Majesty's confidence, it was impossible for him to accept office. The Ladies of the Bedchamber were so unpopular in consequence of their behaviour to Lady Flora Hastings that the public took alarm at the notion that the Queen had fallen into the hands of an intriguing coterie; and Lord Melbourne, who was accused of wishing to rule on the strength of Court favour, resumed office with a diminished prestige.

There can be no doubt that the Queen was badly advised in this emergency. Sir Robert Peel could not be expected to govern while the Queen kept about her person ladies who were related to his political opponents. One of the Bedchamber ladies was wife of Lord Normandy, the Colonial Secretary, another was sister to Lord Morpeth, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the warm friendship which the Queen proclaimed for these ladies was not a reassuring thing constitutionally speaking. The Tories thus felt aggrieved; and the Chartists also were so prompt to make political capital out of the affair that large numbers were added to their ranks. On the 14th of June Mr. Attwood, M.P. for Birmingham, presented to the House of Commons a Chartist petition alleged to have been signed by 1,280,000 people. It was a cylinder of parchment of about the diameter of a coach-wheel and was literally rolled up the floor of the House. On the day after this curious document had furnished both amusement and uneasiness to the Commons, a woman, describing herself as Sophia Elizabeth Guelph Sims, made application at the Mansion House for advice and assistance to prove herself the lawful child of George IV. and Mrs. Fitzherbert; and this incident, trumpery as it was, added fuel to the disloyal flame then raging.

It requires some effort of imagination to picture England in a ferment of disaffection; but it is certain that the year 1839 was one of the most trying through which the Queen passed. Going in state to

Ascot she was hissed by some ladies as her carriage drove on to the course, and two peeresses, one of them a Tory Duchess, were openly accused of this unseemly act. Meanwhile some monster Chartist demonstrations were being organized, and they commenced on the 4th of July with riots at Birmingham. It was an untoward coincidence that Lady Flora Hastings died on the 5th of July, for though she repeated on her deathbed, and wished it to be published, that the Queen had taken no part whatever in the proceedings which had shortened her life, this declaration did not avail much since the ladies who were believed to have persecuted her still retained the Sovereign's favour. The riots at Birmingham lasted ten days, and had to be put down by armed force. They were followed by others at Newcastle, Manchester, Bolton, Chester, and Macclesfield. Lord John Russell wrote letter upon letter to mayors and justices urging them to watch evil-disposed persons, to enrol special constables, to be firm, but to avoid bloodshed, &c., and for these indications of a vacillating mind he was unsparingly attacked in Parliament both by those who considered that he had been too weak in his repression of disorder, and by those who charged him with having made an unjustifiable use of the military to interfere with the right of public meeting. In the end the Ministry was recast. Lord John, who had failed at the Home Office, exchanged seals with Lord Normanby and became Colonial Secretary. Mr. Baring was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in the place of Mr. Spring-Rice, who was created Lord Monteagle, and Mr. Macaulay became Secretary at War instead of Lord Howick. It was on this occasion that, going to Windsor to kiss hands, the future historian sent to the electors of Edinburgh an address, dated from "Windsor Castle," and exposed himself to much Tory banter for this naive, but quite unintentional, piece of presumption.

THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE



HE troublous events of the year 1839 had the effect of hastening the Queen's marriage. Chartist had been put down, but there prevailed a feeling that the Court was too much under the control of women, and Ministers were anxious to be relieved of the delicate responsibility of guiding the young Queen in domestic matters. Their position towards the Duchess of Kent was one of daily embarrassment. The Duchess had no officially recognized power, but so long as her daughter remained unmarried her will in the Royal household was paramount, and there were occasions—as in the Bedchamber affair—

when domestic matters trenched to a dangerous extent on politics. Lord Melbourne, who had publicly borne the odium of the Bedchamber Plot, was in reality very loth to be rated as a Court favourite, and his paternal attachment to the Queen had made him view with concern the occurrences which had caused her name to be too freely bandied about. Accordingly, when he had ascertained that the Queen's dispositions towards her cousin, Prince Albert, were unchanged, he advised King Leopold, through M. Van der Weyer, the Belgian Minister, that the Prince should come to England and press his suit. The Prince arrived with his brother on a visit to Windsor on the 10th of October, 1839; but he had no idea that a speedy marriage was to result from this journey. A few weeks previously the Queen had written to her uncle, and said emphatically that she could entertain no project of matrimony for at least four years, and this having been reported to Prince Albert, he was under the impression that the Queen meant to break off their engagement, and that he had been summoned in order that a communication to this effect might be made to him in the most considerate

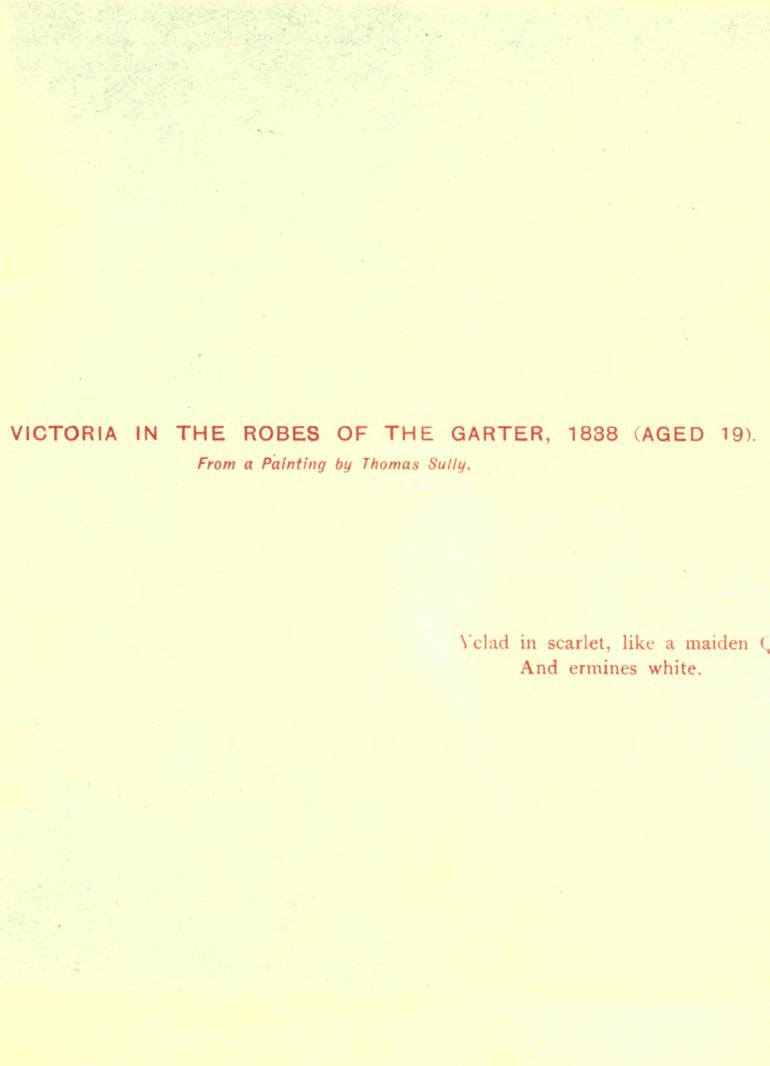
manner possible. In the course of three days, however, he made such good use of his opportunities that he carried his lady's heart by storm.

He had much improved since his last visit in 1836. He was no longer boyish, but tall and handsome, with a look of high intelligence in his clear, blue eyes and expansive forehead. On the evening of his arrival the Queen wrote, with significant emotion, to King Leopold:—“Albert's beauty is most striking; and he is most amiable and unaffected—in short, very fascinating.” After this it is not surprising that on the 14th her Majesty should have informed Lord Melbourne that she had made up her mind. “I am very glad of it,” answered the Premier with fatherly enthusiasm; “the news will be very well received, for I hear that there is great anxiety now that this thing should be; and you will be much more comfortable, for a woman cannot stand alone, whatever her position may be.” It was not till the following day that Prince Albert himself was apprised of the Queen's intentions. The proposal had to come from her, and maiden modesty being in conflict with Royal etiquette, there was a natural timidity in her manner of approaching the moment which was to settle her life's course. The Princes had been hunting in the morning, and, returning at noon, Prince Albert was summoned to the Queen's sitting-room, where he found her alone. She began by talking on different subjects to gain time. M. Daguerre's invention for taking pictures by sunlight—not yet called “photography”—was then a new thing, and some daguerreotypes which had been exhibited to the Queen that morning lay on the table. Having shown these, she spoke of the great tournament which had lately been held at Eglinton Castle and of Lady Seymour, “the Queen of Beauty”; then suddenly, after a pause, she said in German, with tears in her eyes, “Could you forsake your country for me?” The Prince's answer was to take her in his arms, and all ended so happily, that, once more writing to her uncle an hour or two later, the Queen could say:—“I love him more than I can tell, and I shall do everything in my power to render this sacrifice (for such in my opinion it is) as small as I can. I think—and Albert approves—that we ought to be married very soon after Parliament meets, at the beginning of February.”

The Prince, whose influence over the Queen was to be exercised in the most beneficial manner during a cloudless married life of twenty-one years, was a man whose worth was never fully known in this country until after his death. He seemed to have been created on purpose for the position to which he was called; he was certainly

educated in view of it, and this with the most watchful care under the superintendence of a German diplomatist who knew England well—Baron Friedrich von Stockmar. Lord Palmerston, who never much liked Stockmar, was obliged to confess of him, “He is the only absolutely disinterested man I have ever known.” Stockmar was a native of Coburg, born in 1787, and had entered the service of Prince Leopold as private physician in 1816, when the Prince married the Princess Charlotte. The Princess died with her hand clasped in his, and it was owing to his skilful treatment that the Prince was enabled to bear the shock of a bereavement which seemed likely to crush him. Until the Prince became King of the Belgians, Stockmar remained his private secretary, controller of his household, and his agent in all political negotiations. He was thus brought into contact with the leading statesmen of Europe, and their unanimous opinion of him was that he had no superior among diplomatists for penetration and tact. In 1831 he retired to his home at Coburg, being too shrewd to excite Belgian jealousies by residing at his master’s Court in the capacity of confidential adviser; but Leopold continued to ask his opinion by letter on all matters of importance, and he did so as regards Prince Albert’s training.

It is amusing to read the bulletins which Stockmar drew up to describe the young Prince’s character. They are examples of psychological diagnosis, pushed almost to vivisection. Very few young princes’ characters could have borne such treatment. But Stockmar, knowing what were King Leopold’s wishes, was anxious that Prince Albert should play the part which Leopold himself would have played had Princess Charlotte lived. Being aware, also, of how difficult the position of a Queen’s Consort would be in England, no indication as to the Prince’s habits seemed to his German mind too slight to be made a note of. Therefore he used to write that Prince Albert was sweet tempered, but listless; chivalrous and clever, but lazy in studying politics. He did not care for newspapers:—“He says that the *Augsburg Gazette* is enough for any man’s wants, but he does not read even that.” Then the Prince was indifferent to the society of ladies. “At parties he sits talking on art and war with old men, and takes no notice of the fair who are pining to dance with him.” Extracts from these letters used to be shown to the Queen, and it is not certain that Prince Albert’s callousness to the fascinations of German ladies constituted a blemish in her opinion. But she was sorry that he had no inclination towards politics; and about a year before her betrothal



QUEEN VICTORIA IN THE ROBES OF THE GARTER, 1838 (AGED 19).

From a Painting by Thomas Sully.

Vclad in scarlet, like a maiden Queen,
And ermines white.

SPENSER



Walter Scott's "Q. E."

she had hailed it as a piece of good news that the Prince had at last begun to read his *Augsburg Gazette* with proper assiduity.

Baron Stockmar was sent to England in January, 1840, as representative of Prince Albert to settle the treaty of marriage and to make arrangements for the Prince's future household. But now the Court's quarrel with the Tories in 1839 brought disagreeable consequences. The Queen's announcement of her betrothal was made in the House of Lords on the 16th of January before a brilliant assemblage of the most eminent people in the land, and it was, of course, enthusiastically received. It was pretty to see the maiden Queen read her declaration, with downcast eyes, in a faltering voice, and, when she spoke of her love and hopes of happiness, there was such lusty cheering among the peers and such waving of peeresses' handkerchiefs that it might have been thought all the preliminaries to the marriage would be settled by both the great political parties in perfect concord. Yet, when the Government proposed that Prince Albert should receive an annuity of £50,000, amendments were moved for reducing that sum, and the Tories unexpectedly revealed themselves as rigid economists. The fault of this lay with Lord Melbourne. The proposals of his Government were in accordance with precedent, for in the cases of the last three Queens Consort and in that of Prince Leopold the allowance had been £50,000; but the Opposition leaders should have been judiciously approached before the motion for the grant was publicly made. Lord Melbourne had neglected to consult them; and he gave offence to the Tories by not describing Prince Albert as a Protestant Prince. The Duke of Wellington denounced this omission, reviving the old charge that the Ministry were bidding for the Irish Catholic vote; and once more, the suspicion about Popery getting abroad, Lord Palmerston was obliged to ask Stockmar for assurance that Prince Albert did not belong to any set of Protestants whose rules might prevent his taking the Sacrament according to the ritual of the English Church. He got an answer couched in somewhat ironical terms to the effect that Protestantism owed its existence in a measure to the House of Saxony, from which the Prince descended, seeing that this House and that of the Landgrave of Hesse had stood quite alone against Europe in upholding Luther and his cause. Even this was not considered satisfactory, for certain high churchmen held that a Lutheran was a "dissenter," and that the Prince should be asked to subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles. Other uneasy people doubted whether the Queen could constitutionally swear at the altar to "obey" a foreign

prince; and wanted to have a special form of marriage service composed for her.

Much needless pain was given to the Queen by the angry temper shown in these discussions on the Prince's religion and his budget, and more especially on those concerning his future *status* as an Englishman. It was out of the question that the Prince should receive the title of King Consort; but the Queen naturally desired that her husband should be placed by Act of Parliament in a position which would secure to him precedence, not only in England, but in foreign Courts. Lord Melbourne sought to effect this by a clause introduced in a Naturalization Bill; but, having mismanaged every detail of the business, he found himself obliged to drop the clause on the understanding that the Queen should confer what precedence she pleased by letters patent. This was a lame way out of the difficulty, for the Queen could only confer precedence within her own realms, whereas an Act of Parliament bestowing the title of Prince Consort would have made the Prince's right to rank above all Royal Imperial Highnesses quite clear, and would have left no room for such disputes as afterwards occurred when foreign princes chose to treat Prince Albert as having mere courtesy rank in his wife's kingdom. On the Prince's Annuity Bill the Government sustained a severe defeat. An amendment moved by Mr. Hume for reducing the allowance to £21,000 was negatived; but the amendment of Colonel Sibthorp—a politician of no great repute—for making the annuity £30,000 was carried against Ministers by 262 votes to 158, the Tories and Radicals going into the same lobby and many Ministerialists taking no part in the division. All this mortified Prince Albert exceedingly and gave him a poor idea of the welcome that awaited him in England. His misgivings increased and were mingled with irritation when he learned that he was not to be allowed to appoint his own secretary, but must accept the services of Mr. Anson, who had formerly been Lord Melbourne's secretary. He was destined to get on very well with this gentleman, who had a round mind and a round face, with nothing angular about him, but at first he considered it an affront that a stranger should be forced upon him, and it required nothing less than the heartiness of the public greeting vouchsafed when he landed at Dover four days before the wedding to cheer him again about his prospects. Lord Melbourne assured him that what had happened was "only the result of high party feeling and must not be taken as a mark of personal antipathy," and the Duke of Wellington strove to atone for Tory ungraciousness by

agreeing, and, indeed, advising, that the Prince should be appointed a Field-Marshal:—"He must wear a red coat at his wedding," said the Duke, "otherwise the people won't believe he's English."

The Queen's marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1840, in the Chapel Royal, St. James's. Only once before had there been a wedding of an English Queen; but the espousals of Mary to Philip of Spain in the Cathedral of Winchester, in sight of a sullen crowd who loathed the bridegroom and felt small love for the bride, were things not to be remembered on the really auspicious day when Victoria and Albert were united. The joint ages of the young pair hardly reached to forty years. The Queen loved with a full heart as humbler brides do, sighing that she could not share all her Royal dignities with the man of her choice; and the Prince bore himself with a gallant mien, not arrogant but manful, looking worthy of his bride's worship and the nation's confidence. The one regret of the London people was that a ceremony so fair did not take place in Westminster Abbey; for Holbein's small chapel in St. James's was ill-suited for a great display. However, all that was seen or heard of the wedding pleased the people well. The Queen was dressed entirely in articles of British manufacture. Her dress was of Spitalfields silk; her veil of Honiton lace; her ribbons came from Coventry; even her gloves had been made in London of English kid—a novel thing in days when the French had a monopoly in the finer kinds of gloves. A humourist has noticed that there are changing fashions even in the behaviour of brides at the altar. In these days brides are expected to look cheerful, but at the period when Bulwer-Lytton, Mrs. Norton, and Lady Blessington were popular novelists, no bride could decorously avoid shedding tears in abundance, and the Queen failed not to conform to usage in this respect, though she felt very happy. One cannot better describe the effect of her marriage than in the words of Lady Lyttelton, one of the Bedchamber Ladies, who wrote a few days after the wedding, "The Queen's look and manner were very pleasing; her eyes much swollen with tears, but great happiness on her countenance; and her look of confidence and comfort at the Prince when they walked away as man and wife was very pretty to see. I understand she is in extremely high spirits since. Such a new thing for her to *dare* to be *unguarded* in conversing with anybody; and with her frank and fearless nature, the restraints she has hitherto undergone with everybody must have been most painful."

THE QUEEN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



ROM the time of her marriage the Queen began to take a really active part in the affairs of State. Previously, her Ministers had tried to spare her all disagreeable and fatiguing business. Death warrants were not submitted to her signature, and though she spent an hour or two every morning writing her name on public documents, these were seldom read to her, nor did she ask to be informed of their contents. Lord Melbourne saw her every day, whether she was in London or at Windsor, and he used to explain all current business in a benevolent, chatty manner, which offered a pleasant contrast to the style of his two principal colleagues, Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston.

Lord John was never a lady's man. His natural kindness was concealed under a somewhat sour air; the tone of his voice was piping and dictatorial. He was always in earnest about trifles. Lord Palmerston was a *persifleur*. Handsome, affable, well-dressed, and cool, there was a point of irony in his tone as if he felt he were playing a comedy in talking to the Queen about serious things which a girl of her age could not be expected to understand, and in asking her for an approval which she dared not refuse. Lord Melbourne always guarded himself against the presumption of seeming to expect approval as a matter of course. The words "Your Majesty" sounded on his lips much like "My dear," but when the Queen had given assent to his proposals he showed the same kind of pleasure as a fond guardian who is glad to find his ward in harmony with him. Lord Melbourne failed as a party leader, but not as a Queen's Minister, and it may be questioned whether a statesman of firmer mould would have succeeded so well as he did in making rough places smooth for Prince Albert. Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston were jealous of the

Prince's interference—and of King Leopold's and Baron Stockmar's, exercised through him—in State affairs; but Lord Melbourne took the common-sense view that a husband will control his wife whether people will it or not. He did not object to the Prince being present when he opened his despatch-box before the Queen; and, knowing what soreness existed in her Majesty's mind against the Tories, he strove to mollify the Prince's feelings towards a party who might soon come to office. In this he behaved admirably, and he displayed wisdom, though the Royal pair hardly appreciated it at the time, in desiring that the Queen should retain the Baroness Lehzen as her private secretary. The Duchess of Kent after her daughter's marriage retired to Ingestre House, Belgrave Square, and the Queen gave the Baroness some hints—but timidly, for she was still afraid of this restless lady—that she might retire too on a pension, resigning her secretaryship to Prince Albert. Lord Melbourne thought, however, that the office of private secretary held by a prince would seem to the public too much like a Secretaryship of State, and would in any case bring the Queen's Consort into relations neither dignified nor agreeable with all sorts of people. A great part of a secretary's business consists in writing refusals to importunate requests. To confer on Prince Albert every honour that the Crown could bestow, and to let him make his way gradually into public favour by his own tact was the advice which Lord Melbourne gave; and the Prince acted upon it so well, avoiding every appearance of intrusion and treating men of all parties and degrees with urbanity, that within five months of his marriage he obtained a signal mark of the public confidence. In expectation of the Queen's becoming a mother a Bill was introduced into Parliament providing for the appointment of a Regent in case the Queen, after giving birth to a child, died before her son or daughter came of age. Prince Albert was named sole Regent, and the Bill passed both Houses with only one dissentient voice—that of the querulous Whig Duke of Sussex, who was displeased that his own fancied claims should have been ignored.

ATTEMPTS ON THE QUEEN'S LIFE



HE Regency Bill had been hurried on in consequence of the attempt of a crazy pot-boy, Edward Oxford, to take the Queen's life. On the 10th of June, 1840, the Queen and Prince Albert were driving up Constitution Hill in an open carriage, when Oxford fired two pistols, the bullets from which flew, it is said, close by the Prince's head. He was arrested on the spot, and when his lodgings were searched a quantity of powder and shot was found, with the rules of a secret society, called "Young England," whose members were pledged to meet, "carrying swords and pistols and wearing crape masks." These discoveries

raised the surmise that Oxford was the tool of a widespread Chartist conspiracy—or, as the Irish pretended, of a conspiracy of Orangemen to set the Duke of Cumberland on the Throne—and while these delusions were fresh, they threw well-disposed persons into a paroxysm of loyalty. Even the London street dogs, as Sydney Smith said, joined with O'Connell in barking "God save the Queen." For several days, whenever the Queen and the Prince drove out, they were escorted by hundreds of ladies and gentlemen on horseback, who served as a bodyguard, while large and sympathising crowds in the streets cheered uproariously. Oxford seems to have been actuated by a mere craving for notoriety; but it may be doubted whether the jury who tried him did right to pronounce his acquittal on the ground of insanity. He feigned madness at his trial, but during the forty years of his subsequent confinement at Bedlam he talked and acted like a rational being, and when he was at length released and sent to Australia he earned his living there as a house painter, and used to declare that he had never been mad at all. His acquittal was to be deprecated as establishing a dangerous precedent in regard to outrages

on the Sovereign. It was always Prince Albert's opinion that if Oxford had been flogged the attempt of Francis on the Queen in 1842 and of Bean in the same year would never have been perpetrated. After the attempt of Bean—who was a hunchback, really insane—Parliament passed a Bill empowering judges to order whipping as a punishment for those who molested the Queen; but somehow this salutary Act was never enforced. In 1850 a half-pay officer named Pate assaulted the Queen by striking her with a stick, and crushing her bonnet; he was sentenced to seven years' transportation; but the judge, Baron Alderson, excused him the flogging. In 1869 an Irish lad, O'Connor, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment and a whipping for presenting a pistol at the Queen, with a petition, in St. James's Park; but this time it was the Queen herself who privately remitted the corporal punishment, and she even pushed clemency to the length of sending her aggressor to Australia at her own expense. The series of attempts on the Queen was closed in 1882 by another Irishman, Maclean, who fired a pistol at her Majesty as she was leaving the Great Western Railway Station at Windsor. He, like Bean, was a genuine madman, and was relegated to Broadmoor.

No monarch was so often attacked by assassins as Louis Philippe, King of the French; and amongst all the letters of condolence and congratulation which the Queen received from abroad, after Oxford's attempt, his were the most feeling. He and his gentle Queen Marie Amélie both wrote with unconventional warmth, and their expressions of goodwill were most welcome, coming at a time when the relations between France and England were perilously strained. The year 1840 was, in fact, nearly marked by a war between the two countries, owing to M. Thiers' policy in Egypt. Encouraging Mehemet Ali in his revolt against the Sultan, the French Prime Minister—a turbulent little man—aimed at making Egypt independent, so that France might have a maritime ally in the Mediterranean—in other words, he wished to transform Egypt into a French dependency. This could not be endured. Lord Palmerston, giving plain expression to the sentiments of this country, declared that the mistress of India could not suffer France to be mistress of the highway to the Indian seas; and on the 15th of July a treaty was signed in London between Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia on the one hand and the Porte on the other for a joint protectorate of the latter country. Mehemet Ali refusing to submit, operations were at once commenced against him by land and sea. Beirut was bombarded and taken; Sidon and St. Jean d'Acre yielded

to the allied forces under English command, and the Sultan's rebellious vassal was soon glad to make peace on condition of being allowed to retain an hereditary Khedivate. At all this the French were deeply mortified. M. Thiers, full of bluster, asked the Chambers for credits to build fortifications round Paris ; and, availing himself of the permission granted by the British Government for the transfer of Napoleon's remains from St. Helena, he endeavoured to foment a *chauvin* fury against England by preparing a pompous reception for the dead Emperor. His success in reviving the *idée Napoléonienne* had one unexpected result, for it emboldened Prince Louis Napoleon, who had been living as a refugee in London, to make a descent upon Boulogne. Starting from the Thames on the 6th of August in the *City of Edinburgh* steamer, the prince, with fifty-eight followers, landed in France, distributed proclamations among the people, and made a ludicrous exhibition of a live eagle perched on his shoulder—this imperial bird being kept steady by a string tied round his foot, and by a piece of bacon set for his refreshment in the brim of the prince's hat. The self-styled Emperor and his band of adventurers excited some dismay among the Boulonnais. They were all captured, however, and Louis Napoleon was soon afterwards shut up in the fortress of Ham under a sentence of imprisonment for life. So little was it thought then that the prince's mad ambition would ever make him ruler of France and an honoured guest at the English Court, that his escapade was generally spoken of in London as having been promoted by Stock Exchange speculators playing for a fall on French Funds. Such as it was, however, the affair helped to bring about the downfall of M. Thiers and a reconciliation between England and France.

Exercising for the first time her private influence as a peacemaker, the Queen sent Louis Philippe a friendly letter (which some years later found its way into the hands of Napoleon III.), conveying her regrets that "the foolish young Bonaparte" should have planned his expedition on English soil, and assuring the French King of her desire to maintain an *entente cordiale* with him. On many occasions after this, the Queen smoothed away the asperities of official intercourse by private letters of this kind ; and who can tell how much trouble she prevented by these womanly good offices, always sanctioned by her Ministers, and sometimes undertaken at their request to extricate them from delicate passes ? It is obvious that Lord Palmerston could not have written in the terms which the Queen used at her uncle Leopold's suggestion, nor would a formal communication coming from him have had the same

QUEEN VICTORIA, 1842 (AGED 23).

From a Drawing by Drummond.

Her open eyes desire the truth,
The wisdom of a thousand years
Is in them. May perpetual youth
Keep dry their light from tears;
That her fair form may stand and shine,
Make bright our days and light our dreams.

TENNYSON



Walter L. Biddle Ph. A.

weight with a *parvenu* King who attached more value to the personal friendship of the British Queen than to the good opinion of her Government. Louis Philippe answered in graceful language, and this enabled King Leopold to step in as mediator. He was Louis Philippe's son-in-law, having married the good and winsome Princess Marie d'Orleans, and his sagacious sense was held in respect at the Tuilleries. He persuaded Louis Philippe to resist M. Thiers' warlike plans, and the Minister, having angrily resigned, found to his mortification that France acquiesced rather gladly in his overthrow. M. Guizot was then summoned from the embassy in London, and entered upon a premiership which was to last for the remainder of the King's reign ; and which, as regards England, inaugurated a period of amicable relations, to be only disturbed by the disagreeable affair of the Spanish marriages.

BIRTH OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL



HE birth of the Princess Royal occurred a few weeks after peace had been happily secured by the Queen's intervention. The event, removing King Ernest of Hanover from the position of heir-presumptive to the British Crown, was a subject of loud congratulations to the people; and nothing happened after the confinement to give the nation a moment's uneasiness as to the mother's health or the baby's. A scare was occasioned at Buckingham Palace, however, when the little Princess was a fortnight old, owing to the intrusion of the celebrated "Boy Jones," who was found concealed under a bed in the Royal nursery. This disagreeable

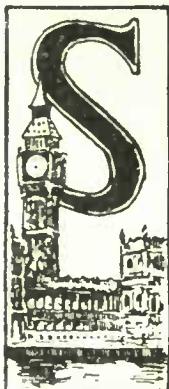
lad, at first suspected of a design to kidnap the Queen's baby, was examined before the Privy Council, but as it appeared that he had no evil intent, he was handed over to a magistrate to be imprisoned for three months as a vagabond. Jones had a mania for palace-breaking. Three times he effected a clandestine entry into the Queen's residence, and twice he managed to spend several days there. By day he concealed himself in cupboards or under furniture, and by night he groped his way into the Royal kitchen to eat whatever he could find. After his third capture in March, 1841, he coolly boasted that he had lain under a sofa and listened to a private conversation between the Queen and Prince Albert. This third time he was not punished, but sent to sea, and turned out very well. There must have been good in him, for he snubbed a newspaper reporter intent on tapping him, by saying proudly:—"Not one guinea nor ten would make me tell you things that wasn't meant to be known." Old Mr. Black, of the *Morning Chronicle*, in whose service the reporter was, remarked upon this:—"You should have offered the guinea to Jones's sister, and left her to do the wheedling."

Indirectly the "Boy Jones" was the means of doing some good, for he called public attention to the careless attendance, untidiness, and waste that prevailed in the Royal Household. This strengthened Prince Albert's hands in trying to carry out sundry domestic reforms, which were being stoutly resisted by vested interests. The Royal residences and grounds used to be under the control of four different officials—the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, the Master of the Horse, and the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. Baron Stockmar, describing the confusion fostered by this state of things, said:—

The Lord Steward finds the fuel and lays the fire; the Lord Chamberlain lights it. The Lord Chamberlain provides the lamps; the Lord Steward must clean, trim, and light them. The inside cleaning of windows belongs to the Lord Chamberlain's department, but the outer parts must be attended to by the Office of Woods and Forests, so that windows remain dirty unless the two departments can come to an understanding.

The "Boy Jones" had found his way into Buckingham Palace because there was no responsible authority to which all servants looked for orders; and if he had been a little bolder he might have billeted himself upon some mess in the Palace without anybody being qualified to ask him what his business was. Ample as the Queen's income looked in figures, it hardly sufficed to cover expenditure when no disbursements could be properly checked. Prince Albert, going over the Lord Steward's accounts, once found an item of 35*s.* a week for "Red Room wine." After a patient investigation, sulkily hindered at every step, he ascertained that a certain chamber at Windsor had been temporarily used during George III.'s reign as a guard-room, and five shillings a day had been allowed to provide wine for the officer on guard. The chamber had long ceased to be a guard-room, but the item for wine still figured in the cellarage accounts and formed one of the perquisites of a half-pay officer, who enjoyed the sinecure of under-butler. This officer was much shocked when he was offered the alternative of renouncing his wine money or doing duty as butler; and, of course, the sympathies of other sinecurists were all on his side. Even after Jones's freak had set all the world laughing at the misrule of the Palace, it took Prince Albert four years of firmness and diplomatizing to bring the Queen's home under the efficient control of a Master of the Household. This was finally done, according to a plan of Baron Stockmar's, in 1845, while Sir Robert Peel was Premier; and the Queen's palaces were always from that time such models of good management that several foreign monarchs took pattern by them in reorganizing their own households.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S MINISTRY

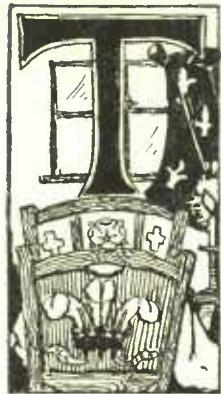


SIR Robert Peel succeeded Lord Melbourne in 1841. Lord Palmerston's spirited policy in the East had not redeemed the many failures of his colleagues. There was war with Afghanistan to combat Russian influence, war with China about the opium trade; commercial distress at home. Deficits of nearly two millions had appeared in the Budgets year after year, and alarmists, seeing every imaginable article taxed, work scarce, wages low, and the price of food rising, talked of national bankruptcy. In May, Sir Robert Peel moved a vote of want of confidence, which was only defeated by a majority of one; and upon this the Queen was advised to dissolve Parliament. The general election that followed proved how completely the Whigs had lost their popularity, for they returned in a minority of seventy-six, and, being at once worsted in a division on the Address, Lord Melbourne resigned.

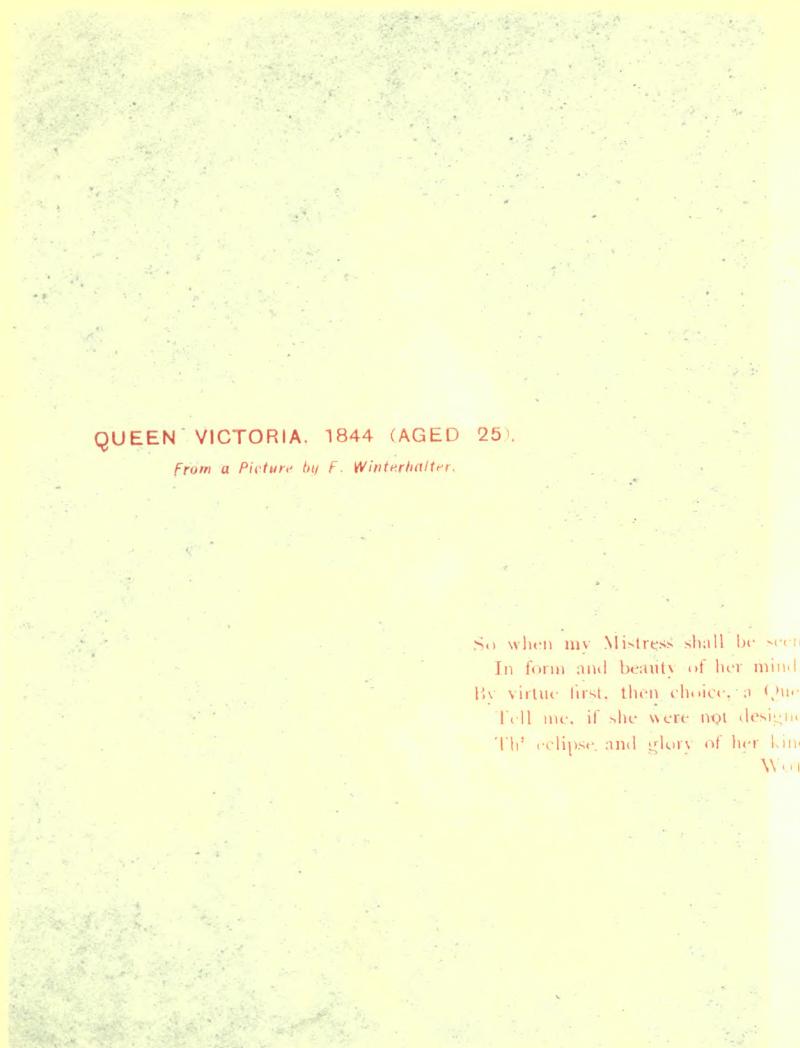
The Queen was affected to tears at parting with him. She had experienced nothing but kindness at his hands; and she naturally felt some antipathy towards Sir Robert Peel, and some fear of him. Peel was quite as kind a man as Melbourne, but with different manners. A French Minister being asked by a lady to do her some great service, gallantly replied:—"Si c'est possible, c'est déjà fait; si c'est impossible, cela se fera." This would have been Melbourne's way. Peel before acceding to a request would, with mellifluous pomposity, discuss its *pros* and *cons*. "There was much to say for this course, and as much for that other; on the whole, he would not be prepared to state but that, having regard to all circumstances, he felt justified as her Majesty's constitutional adviser in suggesting that what she desired might, with propriety, be done." Peel was a great man for precedents, and, if obliged to do anything original, always hoped that his action might not be held to constitute a precedent. When the Queen got to

understand his mannerisms, and saw how excellent and genial a man he was in the main, she liked him much; but to have him as an adviser after the courtly Melbourne was, at first, like exchanging an indulgent guardian for a prosy tutor. Peel, on his side, was far from comfortable about the reception he was likely to get from Prince Albert. He and his Tory friends had begun privately to repent of the support they had given to Colonel Sibthorp's motion for reducing the Prince's annuity, for it had placed them in a position repugnant to the traditions of their party. Coming to power in triumph, they met with no Bedchamber difficulties. The Whig ladies who had held high appointments at Court resigned, and their places were filled by others connected with Tory families; but, as may be well imagined, these others did not feel very proud of Colonel Sibthorp; all the less so as this gentleman had taken to singularising himself by the most eccentric kinds of motions in Parliament. Prince Albert, perceiving there was embarrassment all round, set himself to allay it by exquisite good humour. He received Peel in a way that charmed the latter; and his magnanimity met with instant reward, for one of the Tory Premier's first acts was to propose that a Royal Commission should be appointed to consider the best means for promoting art and science in the kingdom, and he nominated Prince Albert as President. This graceful proceeding was fully appreciated, and it had its importance, as marking out for the Prince a set of non-political duties, which he ably discharged to the end of his life, doing valuable service to this country. He was a born artist, whose taste for painting and sculpture embraced everything that was well done, without predilection for any particular school; he was an accomplished musician, too, and took an interest in all branches of science. It will always be a moot point whether State patronage assists art and inventive genius in their higher developments, but it may do much to raise the standard of public refinement. The International Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862, the creation of the Museum and Art Department at South Kensington, the founding of art schools and picture galleries all over the country, the spread of musical taste, and the fostering of technical education, may be attributed, more or less directly, to the Commission of distinguished men which began its labours under Prince Albert's auspices. It must be added that the Prince was careful to bring up all his children in the respect of intellectual work. None of them have resembled their Hanoverian ancestor in contempt for "boetry and bainting."

BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF WALES



HE Queen's second child, the Prince of Wales, was born on the 9th of November, 1841. He was baptized in water brought from the Jordan. King Frederick William of Prussia came to England to be his sponsor, and his birth "filled the measure of the Queen's domestic happiness," as she said in her Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Session of 1842. But distressing events at home and abroad troubled the early years of the future King's life, and made them a time of anxious concern for his parents. The greatest disaster that ever befell British arms occurred in January, 1842, when an army of 4,500 men retreating from Kabul was exterminated in the Khoord Kabul Pass, with about 12,000 followers. This shocking reverse was justly imputed to the Whigs for their incompetent management of the Afghan war; but their successors inherited the charge of pushing on hostilities at a great cost, so that the disaster might be swiftly and amply avenged, as it was in September, when General Pollock defeated Akbar Khan in the valley of Tezeen and led back a victorious army into Kabul. It has been explained how miserable was the financial condition of the country at this date, and the war expenditure made it the more urgent to take energetic measures for relieving it. In the Session of 1842 Sir Robert Peel introduced his sliding scale of corn duties, a proposal for an income-tax of 7d. in the pound, and a new Customs tariff, which either abolished or greatly lowered the duties on 750 out of 1,200 articles. To make the national revenue expand by removing the burdens that weighed upon manufactures was a real stroke of genius, and was recognised as such by all who were not actuated by party passion. Parliament and the country supported the courageous Minister, and Peel was loudly cheered in the House of



QUEEN VICTORIA. 1844 (AGED 25).

From a Picture by F. Winterhalter.

So when my Mistress shall be seen
In form and beauty of her mind,
By virtue first, then choice, a Queen,
Tell me, if she were not designed
Th' eclipse and glory of her kind?

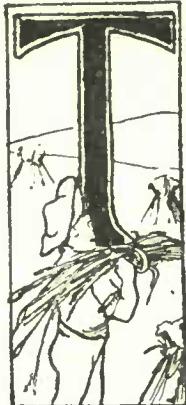
WOTTON.



Walter Scott, Pl. 2

Commons when he announced that the Queen desired it to be known that she would claim no exemption for herself from the income-tax. This impost was denounced, however, by Lord John Russell as unjust and inquisitorial, and all the other remedial measures which were to confer such benefits on the kingdom were assailed in a like spirit. At the same time the Whigs, gathering instruction from the financial genius of Peel and of his able lieutenant, Gladstone (then Vice-President of the Board of Trade), promptly began the game of outbidding their opponents, and thus the agitation was started for a total repeal of the Corn Laws.

REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS



THE Anti-Corn Law movement kept the country in convulsions for four years, and was contemporaneous with the mania for railway speculation. Between these two causes of excitement the nation seemed to be smitten with neurosis. On the one hand, people were crying, as if famished, for cheap bread; on the other, millions upon millions of pounds were subscribed for railway schemes. While protection was anathematized by the Anti-Corn-Law League as if the aristocracy and the farmers had sworn a *pacte de famine* to starve the masses, every man appeared to have pocketfuls of money to risk in the most absurd investments, so that any rogue alighting from a stage coach with implements for surveying a promised line from one village to another would turn the heads of squires, farmers, and publicans, and empty old women's hoard-stockings. The Queen looked on with amazement at the sudden folly which possessed her subjects, but it says much for the simple and honest habits which her example had introduced among her *entourage* that the tornado of speculation which swept over the country left the Court unscathed. Nobody connected with the Sovereign as relation or servant was compromised in any of the disasters which overtook most of the railway promoters and wrecked characters by the hundreds as well as fortunes by the thousand. The crisis came in the autumn of 1845, when *The Times* published a statistical table showing that 1,428 companies had been registered up to date (November), and were pledged to the impossible outlay of £701,243,208. Crash after crash followed this exposure, amid universal panic and wailing. For a while railway scrip was not only unsaleable but not to be parted with at a gift. Holders of half-paid-up shares resigned themselves to bankruptcy, and men who had

raved at Parliament for not passing railway bills with sufficient speed leaped with joy when it happened that the project of their particular company was thrown out, thereby enabling the concern to be wound up and the shareholders to be discharged from further liability. The cheap loaf became a serious desideratum now, and Sir Robert Peel suddenly announced his conversion to the doctrines of Free Trade.

A split in the Cabinet and in the Ministerial party was the consequence of this unexpected political summersault. Peel tendered his resignation, and Lord John Russell was sent for. But Lord John could not form an Administration; so Peel resumed office to repeal the Corn Laws by the aid of a coalition of Whigs and personal adherents. It would be superfluous to revive here the long vexed question as to the political morality of Peel's conduct in breaking up his party, and remaining in office to pass a measure which he had so lately opposed with all his strength. On the very day when the Corn Importation Bill was passed through the House of Lords (June 26, 1846), the Protectionists revenged themselves upon Peel by coalescing with the Whigs to overthrow his Ministry on an Irish Coercion Bill. The outgoing Minister spoke with dignity and eloquence when he informed the Commons of his resignation:—"I shall leave a name execrated by every monopolist," he said, "but it will be remembered perhaps with expressions of gratitude by the poor to whom I shall have given untaxed food."

The Queen and Prince Albert were much relieved by Peel's surrender, for it closed an agitation of the kind that always makes Royal personages quake. When the country was in distress, when there were bread riots and bankruptcies, alarms among landholders and levelling menaces in every demagogue's mouth, the Queen felt a womanly repugnance for festivities; and yet how was she to avoid such things without incurring the reproach of living meanly to save money? There was a conversation between her and Sir Robert Peel on this subject in the early days of the Tory Administration, and the Queen talked of reducing her establishment in order that she might give away larger sums in charities. "I am afraid the people would only say that your Majesty was returning them change for their pounds in halfpence," answered Peel. "Your Majesty is not perhaps aware that the most unpopular person in the parish is the relieving officer, and if the Queen were to constitute herself a relieving officer for all the parishes in the kingdom, she would find her money go a very little way, and she would provoke more grumbling than thanks."

Peel added that a Sovereign must do all things in order, not seeking praise for doing one particular thing well, but striving to set an example in all respects, even in dinner-giving. Such advice might have sounded like truisms addressed to an experienced monarch, but it was not inopportune when conveyed to a Queen of twenty-two, with a husband of the same age, both of whom read the newspapers, and wondered whether the vast changes which steam and electric wires were working in the world were not going to modify all ancient notions as to Royal duties. Radicalism was never so flighty as in the days when science had just begun to make men travel, correspond with one another, and manufacture in new ways. The wisdom of our fore-fathers seemed to be stultified, and enthusiasts treated all old institutions as if they were worn out and objects for ridicule. Thackeray wrote his "Snob Papers," which were railing attacks on all the social conventions inseparable from States governed by hereditary rulers; Dickens in his novels never missed a chance of laughing at a lord; Grote held that the offer of a peerage was an insult to a man's patriotism and understanding; and many young Whigs (out of office) were not far from agreeing with the Chartist in demanding triennial Parliaments and manhood suffrage. Who would have thought then that in sixty years the House of Lords would be still upstanding, and the Throne more firm than it had ever been? It is easy to see how the Queen must have feared to commit mistakes, and what caution Prince Albert had to exercise that he might do all things in order—that is, satisfy economists and Court tradesmen, be hospitable without extravagance, charitable with judgment, and thrifty without earning the character of a curmudgeon.

The leading events of the Queen's life during the Peel Administration must be set down in order. The year 1842 was ushered in by splendid *fêtes* in honour of the King of Prussia, who held the Prince of Wales at the font. In the spring there was a fancy-dress ball at Buckingham Palace, which has remained memorable owing to the offence which it gave to our touchy French neighbours. Prince Albert was costumed as Edward III., the Queen as Queen Philippa, and all the gentlemen of the Court as Knights of Poictiers. The French chose to view this as an unfriendly demonstration, and there was some talk of getting up a counter-ball in Paris, the Duke of Orleans to figure as William the Conqueror.

THE QUEEN'S FIRST RAILWAY JOURNEY



N June the Queen took her first railway journey, travelling from Windsor to Paddington on the Great Western line. The Master of the Horse, whose business it was to provide for the Queen's ordinary journeys by road, was much put out by this innovation. He marched into the station several hours before the start to inspect the engine, as he would have examined a steed; but greater merriment was occasioned by the Queen's coachman, who insisted that, as a matter of form, he ought to make believe to drive the engine. After some dispute, he was told that he might climb on to the pilot engine which was to precede the Royal train, and the good fellow actually did this; but his scarlet livery, white gloves, and wig suffered so much from soot and sparks that he made no more fuss about his rights in after trips. The run to Paddington was successfully accomplished, and the motion of the train was found to be so pleasant that the Queen readily trusted herself to the railway for a longer journey a few weeks later, when she paid her first visit to Scotland. Some comical incidents marked this tour north of the Tweed. The Scottish Archers almost came to blows with a regiment of Dragoons for the privilege of guarding the Queen's person; meanwhile the Town Council of Edinburgh, unable to imagine that a Sovereign could keep early hours, had not assembled to meet her Majesty when she entered the city at about nine in the morning. Startled by the blare of trumpets as they wended their way leisurely to the place of meeting, the Lord Provost and Councillors were soon seen hurrying, breathless, at the tail of the Royal procession, with their gowns ballooning

behind them, and the gibes of their sarcastic fellow-townspeople ringing in their ears. Scotland, with its noble scenery and warm-hearted people, pleased the Queen so well that her resolution of buying an estate was formed before she returned to England, and Sir James Clarke was instructed to make inquiries concerning the localities which were most healthy. His report led to the Queen's visiting Balmoral in 1848 and to the purchase of the Balmoral estate in 1852, and one need only refer to the Queen's diary of her journeys in Scotland to see what constant enjoyment she derived from her Highland home. Seven years before this the estate of Osborne had been purchased, in order that the Queen might have a home of her own. Windsor she considered too stately and the Pavilion at Brighton too uncomfortable. The first stone of Osborne House was laid in 1845, and the Royal Family entered into possession in September, 1846.

In August, 1843, the Queen and Prince Albert paid a visit to King Louis Philippe at the Château d'Eu. They sailed from Southampton for Tréport in a yacht, and, as it happened to be raining hard when they embarked, the loyal members of the Southampton Corporation remembered Raleigh, and spread their robes on the ground for the Queen to walk over. In 1844 Louis Philippe returned the visit by coming to Windsor. It was the first visit ever paid by a King of France to a Sovereign of this country, and Louis Philippe was much pleased at receiving the Order of the Garter. He said that he did not feel that he belonged to the "Club" of European Sovereigns until he received this decoration. The Tsar Nicholas also visited Windsor in 1844 (the year in which Prince Alfred, who was to marry his Majesty's grand-daughter, was born). The Queen was not much struck by the handsome Russian autocrat. She wrote that she did not think him clever, as politics and military concerns were the only things in which he took an interest.

In 1845 the Bill for increasing the endowments of the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, in Ireland, caused Mr. Gladstone to resign the office of President of the Board of Trade. When the Bill was brought into the House of Lords by the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Newcastle asked whether the Queen had granted permission to propose such a Bill—a question which Lord Brougham declared to be the most unconstitutional he had ever heard in Parliament. In the same year, 1845, the Queen attended a grand naval review at Spithead. At no time since the Peace of 1815 had there been such a muster of naval strength as was displayed on this occasion. A small incident

which occurred at the prorogation of Parliament by the Queen personally in this year—namely, the Duke of Argyll's letting the crown fall off the cushion on which he was carrying it—caused much clattering of tongues among the superstitious. The year 1846 was memorable for the victories of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Sobraon, in British India—for which the thanks of Parliament were voted—and also for the affair of the "Spanish Marriages," which seriously troubled the relations between England and France. Louis Philippe and M. Guizot had planned the marriage of the Duke of Montpensier with the Infanta Louisa of Spain, younger sister to Queen Isabella, who, it was thought at the time, was not likely ever to have children. The intrigue was therefore one for placing a son of the French King on the Spanish throne. Lord Normanby, British Ambassador in Paris, was instructed to deliver to M. Guizot a formal protest based on the Treaty of Utrecht and on formal assurances given by M. Guizot to Lord Aberdeen; at the same time the Queen wrote privately to the Queen of the French, Marie Amélie, urging the many objections to the marriage. This letter caused Louis Philippe to write to his daughter Marie, Queen of the Belgians, as follows:—

I am inclined to think that the good little Queen was as sorry to write the letter as I was to read it. But she now sees things only through the spectacles of Lord Palmerston, and these distort the truth too often. The difference between Palmerston and Aberdeen is that the latter wishes to be well with his friends, while the former seeks to quarrel with them.

The marriage took place, but did not yield the political results contemplated, for Queen Isabella had children, and the Duke of Montpensier wholly failed to win popularity or influence in Spain. But as to Queen Victoria's intervention on this question and on others, these words, written by Mr. Gladstone in 1875, may be quoted:—

Although the admirable arrangements of the Constitution have now shielded the Sovereign from personal responsibility, they have left ample scope for the exercise of direct and personal influence in the whole work of government. . . . The Sovereign as compared with her Ministers has, because she is the Sovereign, the advantage of long experience, wide survey, elevated position, and entire disconnection from the bias of party. Further, personal and domestic relations with the ruling families abroad give openings in delicate cases for saying more, and saying it at once more gently and more efficaciously than could be ventured in the formal correspondence and rude contacts of Government. We know with how much truthfulness and decision, and with how much tact and delicacy, the Queen, aided by Prince Albert, took a principal part on behalf of the nation in the painful question of the Spanish Marriages.

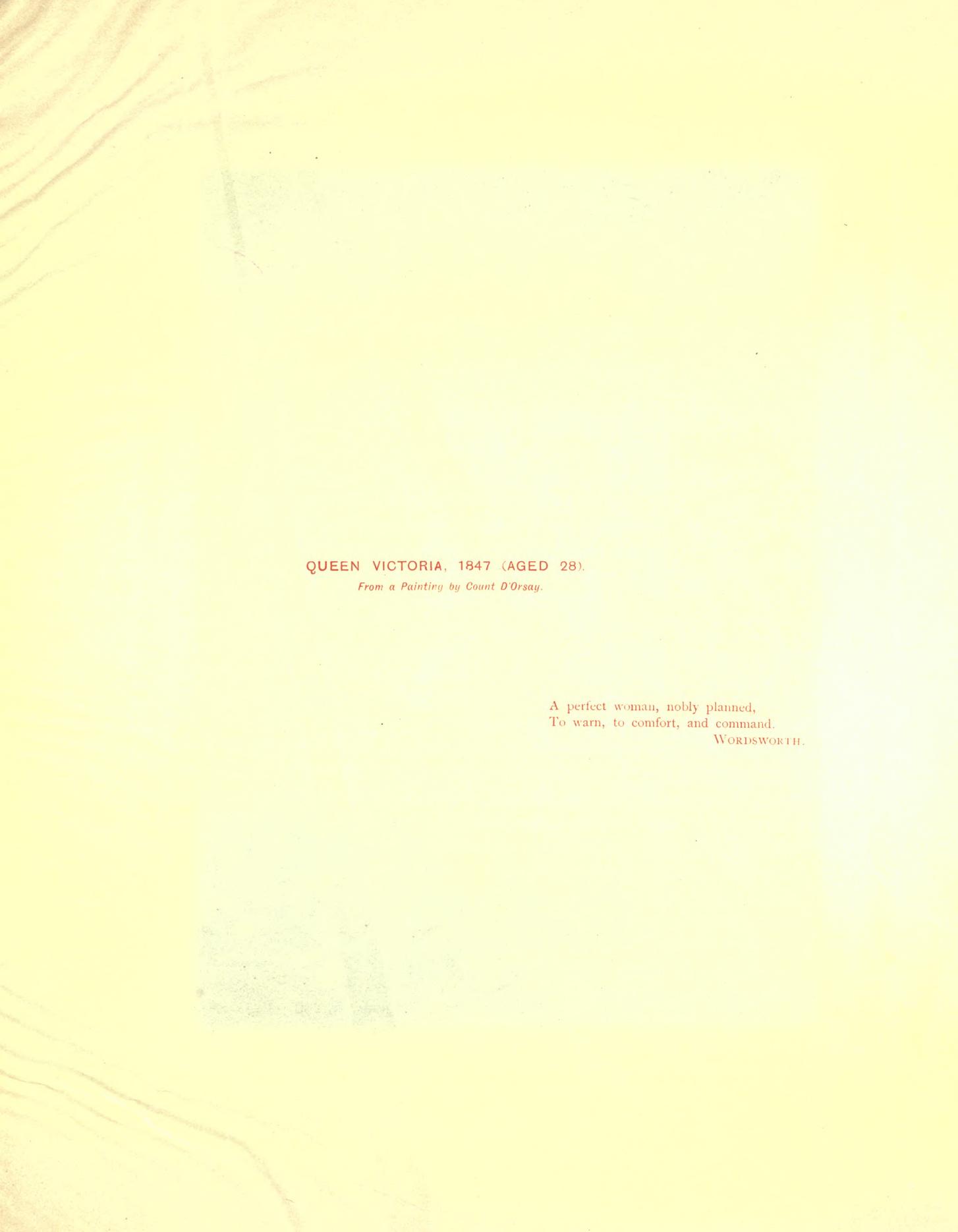
IRISH FAMINE, CONTINENTAL REVOLUTIONS AND CHARTISM



IR Robert Peel's Administration was succeeded by that of Lord John Russell, which was to remain in power five years and seven months, although it took office under circumstances which did not encourage Ministers to hope that they could retain their seats for a twelvemonth. The General Election of July, 1846, gave the Ministerialists a majority of no more than twenty-five to thirty. Peel's abandonment of Protection had, however, thrown parties into a state of flux, and the Russell Cabinet, without being strong or popular, started with the advantage of having a divided Opposition to cope with. In

1848 the sudden death of Lord George Bentinck deprived the Protectionists of their ablest leader, and in 1850 the sudden death of Sir Robert Peel removed the only statesman who could at that time have reorganized the Conservative party. The long duration of the Russell Administration was therefore the result of accident, and, so far as the death of Peel is concerned, of an accident which was a national misfortune. The main redeeming feature in the career of the Whig Cabinet was the energetic and yet prudent foreign policy of Lord Palmerston. In their conduct of home affairs Ministers gave the country little cause for satisfaction.

The famine in Ireland was the first and greatest subject which engaged their attention. This famine had been foretold, and in the summer of 1846 a great meeting of Irish landlords of both parties was held at Dublin to consider what remedial measures might be proposed to the Government. The resolutions of the meeting were wisely drawn, and ought to have met with prompt attention. They were



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1847 (AGED 28).

From a Painting by Count D'Orsay.

A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort, and command.

WORDSWORTH.



Walton & Co. Ltd. P. & S.

disregarded, and the failure of the potato crop, following upon a bad harvest, brought a famine which raged for months with unspeakable horrors. In January, 1847, the mortality in the Irish workhouses averaged 1,400 a week. Peasants were grubbing for roots to eat, and were dying by the thousand. In some districts the parochial authorities could no longer supply coffins for the pauper dead, and coroners gave up holding inquests. It was in vain that enormous sums were subscribed by private charity in England, and that grain-laden vessels were sent over with free gifts from America. The relief came too late. When the famine was over it was found that Ireland had lost two millions of her population. Starvation, diseases resulting from want, and emigration, which drove away shiploads of families from the wasted land, had brought down the population from 8,000,000 to 6,000,000. This is a terrible page in the history of the United Kingdom. Naturally the exasperation of the Irish was intense, insomuch that a coroner's jury in Galway brought in a verdict of "wilful murder" against Lord John Russell for having, by his neglect of duty as Prime Minister, caused the death of a starved woman. Had Daniel O'Connell not died suddenly in May, 1847, the Repeal movement must have gathered great force from the famine; as it was, the demise of this powerful agitator left the Repeal Association without any influential chief, and possibly spared Ireland the miseries of a useless revolution. It must be placed on record that the conduct of the Roman Catholic clergy was systematically directed towards rousing animosities against the English people, instead of seeking to promote an honest recognition of the sacrifices which Englishmen and English-women of all classes were making to alleviate Irish distress. In November the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, as a Roman Catholic, addressed serious remonstrances to Dr. M'Hale, Archbishop of Tuam, against the priestly denunciation of landlords from the altars of Irish churches—denunciations which proved the incentive to a great many brutal murders. The Archbishop answered with sophistical evasions, and the attitude of the Roman Catholic clergy in general on this occasion had a great deal to do with the explosion of national anger which greeted the first announcement of Pope Pius IX.'s intention of dividing England and Scotland into a number of regular sees.

In February, 1847, Prince Albert was elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, his competitor being Earl Powis, who only obtained 112 against 1,790 given to the Prince. In August the Queen and the Prince went on a marine excursion to the Highlands of

Scotland, as to which her Majesty wrote:—"Our boat entered Fingal's Cave. It was the first time the Sovereign of the United Kingdom, with the Royal Standard, had ever been seen in this place." In November her Majesty opened Parliament, and on this occasion the Queen's Speech was for the first time transmitted to the provinces by telegraph. The rate of transmission was fifty-five letters per minute, or 430 words in the hour.

The year 1848, which shook so many Continental thrones, left that of England unhurt. Revolutions broke out in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, Rome, Naples, Venice, Munich, Dresden, and Pesth. At one time the entire countries from the Po to the Tyrolese Alps, from the Leitha to the Save, and from the Elbe to the Rhine were in arms. Everywhere misgoverned populations were making frantic attempts to destroy Absolutism, and force upon their rulers the Charter which had been promised in 1830 and afterwards retracted. Louis Philippe was driven from the throne of France (a victim to M. Guizot's high-handed rule), Pius IX. had to fly from Rome, Ferdinand of Austria and Louis of Bavaria were compelled to abdicate, the King of Naples and the Grand Dukes of Tuscany, Modena, and Parma had to give way before triumphant rebellions. In Paris, Venice, and Rome the Republic was proclaimed, Hungary declared itself independent of Austria, and Posen tried to throw off the yoke of Prussia. Nevertheless, the year ended badly for the popular cause. Misdirected in some places, having but superficial strength in others, the revolutionary movements were carried to excesses which provoked reactions. The victories of Radetsky in Lombardy, those of Windischgraetz in Vienna and Prague, and of the Russians under Paskewitch in Bohemia, the crushing of the German insurrections by Prince William of Prussia, and the annihilation of the Communist forces in Paris by Cavaignac left Europe prostrate once more at the feet of infuriated Emperors, Kings, and Ministers. Implacable reprisals set in, and England became the refuge for thousands of foreigners flying from court-martial sentences of hanging, shooting, or imprisonment.

The foreign policy of Lord Palmerston during this time of trouble was, of course, attacked in a party spirit, and Mr. Disraeli was especially vehement and sarcastic about it; but it was a wise policy, worthy of the great traditions of England. Lord Palmerston spoke up wherever he could for oppressed populations and nationalities, and this he did without ever espousing causes which were merely those of agitators. He was no more on the side of the Paris Communists than

he was on that of the "butcher" Haynau. Mr. Disraeli twitted him with advising all Sovereigns to adopt the British Constitution, but the Sovereigns to whom he recommended Constitutionalism would have found it all the better for them if they had taken his advice. Many of those who would not listen to him soon had occasion to rue it, and the young Queen of Spain was of the number. In March, 1848, our Minister at Madrid, Sir Henry Bulwer, received his passport and was ordered to leave Spain within forty-eight hours, owing to a despatch which he had delivered to the Duke de Sotomayor. The despatch was full of well-meant advice which the Spanish Government was too proud to accept, but the course of events in Spain during the ensuing twenty years, which ended with Queen Isabella's overthrow, offered a sufficient justification for Lord Palmerston's timely though despised warning.

In England nothing worse occurred in the way of attempted revolution than some noisy Chartist meetings, and some riots for purposes of plunder in Lancashire and Glasgow. A monster demonstration which was announced for the 10th of April caused much alarm in London, for the Chartists spoke of marching 100,000 strong from Kennington Common to the House of Commons and presenting a petition covered with five millions of signatures. The military defence of the principal public buildings in the metropolis was intrusted to the Duke of Wellington, but 250,000 specially enrolled constables undertook to protect private property, and this imposing array of citizens forming the army of order reduced the Chartist affair to a fiasco. Not more than 25,000 persons gathered on Kennington Common, and most of these assembled to make fun. The Chartist leaders quarrelled: their big petition would not fit into a cab and had to be perched on a truck; its transit through the streets raised laughter, and laughter greeted it again when it was rolled up the floor of the House of Commons. The fact is that the times were not propitious for any lawless movements in England. The Queen was popular, the repeal of the Corn Laws had removed a grievance which, whether real or imaginary, had been severely felt, and, besides this, the disturbances on the Continent, by bringing all industry abroad to a standstill, had set English factories working at a double and treble rate. Work being plentiful and wages high, the manufacturing classes looked askance at the Chartists, whose leaders had indeed no claim to public confidence. If their programme of political reform seems moderate to-day, it must be remembered that the reasonableness of political demands depends not on their wording, but on the manner in

which they are urged. The men who clamoured for manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, and triennial or annual Parliaments would have shouted for something else if they had obtained all that they pretended to want. For all this the good sense shown by the mass of the nation in resisting a hollow agitation, and the loyalty generally displayed towards the Queen at a time when all the monarchs of the Continent were at war with their subjects, lent a magnificent prestige abroad both to English loyalty and to the free institutions of England. Who knows what might have been the fate of Universal Liberalism had England been carried along by the revolutionary torrent of 1848? But by demonstrating on the contrary that liberty and order can flourish together the nation did incalculable good for the progress in other nations. In the words of Kossuth, "The torch remained burning in England when there was darkness all around, but that one torch was enough to rekindle many lights."

The Queen and Prince Albert were affected in many private ways by the events abroad. Panic-stricken princes wrote to them for political assistance or pecuniary aid. Louis Philippe, who had been so contemptuously arrogant towards the English Court a year before his fall, came to our shores almost destitute, and the Queen employed Sir Robert Peel as her intermediary for providing him with money to meet his immediate wants. Subsequently Claremont was assigned to the exiled Royal Family of France as a residence. During a few weeks of 1848 Prince William of Prussia found an asylum in England, and very little must he have thought at that time, when he had scarce escaped from mob lynching, that he would ever be German Emperor. Most strange were the ups and downs of that memorable year when Prince Louis Napoleon, who had been lodging in King Street, St. James's, almost at his wits' ends for money, was suddenly called back to France as President of the Republic preparatory to becoming Emperor.

It is a pity that the Government's Irish policy at this period reflected so little of the good sense which was being displayed by the British nation at large. Coercive measures so-called—that is, Acts for compelling the Irish to obey the law like other people—had been passed in the two previous Sessions of Parliament, but they were applied with a lax hand, and incitements to sedition were most weakly tolerated. Insurrectionary rifle clubs were formed, arms were openly sold under the eyes of the police, men were drilled by moonlight with the cognizance of the authorities, and all this while

newspapers like the *United Irishman*, the *Nation*, and the *Irish Felon* were denouncing the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Clarendon, as a man who deserved hanging. Agrarian murders and outrages were rife, and it is a matter for surprise that the revolutionary preparations flagrantly carried on by John Mitchel, Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and others led only to the ridiculous affray at Widow Cormack's house at Ballingarry. It might have been better for Ireland, and for England, if this affray had been worse, in order that English statesmen might have been frightened once and for all into governing Ireland with an even firmness instead of by fits and starts of severity and over-indulgence.

However, when Parliament was prorogued in September, after a Session of ten months—the longest on record—Ireland was reputed fairly quiet, insomuch that the Queen and Prince Albert were advised to visit the island in the following year. They sailed from the Isle of Wight (August, 1849) accompanied by the little Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales, and landed at the Cove of Cork, which from that day was renamed Queenstown. The reception was enthusiastic, and so was that at Dublin. "Such a day of jubilee," wrote *The Times*, "such a might of rejoicing, has never been beheld in the ancient capital of Ireland since first it arose on the banks of the Liffey." The Queen was greatly pleased and touched. She says in her diary: "It was a wonderful and striking scene, such masses of human beings, so enthusiastic, so excited, and yet such perfect order maintained—a never-to-be-forgotten scene when one reflected how lately the country had been in open revolt and under martial law."

The project of establishing a Royal residence in Ireland was often mooted at this time, but the Queen's advisers never urged it with sufficient warmth. There was no repugnance to the idea on the Queen's part, but Sir Robert Peel thought unfavourably of it as an "empirical" plan, and then the question of expense was always mooted as a serious consideration. Lastly, it had to be borne in mind that the Queen, becoming an Irish landowner, would have to do as other land-owners did—that is, exact fair rents—and submit to the consequent odium of ordering evictions when rents were not paid. The scheme was never exactly rejected, but it was again and again shelved until a better time should come. Unfortunately that better time never came. It may be remarked that in 1850 it was resolved to abolish the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and an authoritative announcement was made to that effect by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons.

During these years the Queen's family was rapidly becoming larger. We have already mentioned the birth of the Princess Royal (Empress Frederick) on November 21, 1840, and the Prince of Wales on November 9, 1841. Princess Alice (afterwards Grand Duchess of Hesse) was born on April 25, 1843; Prince Alfred (afterwards Duke of Edinburgh and Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha) on August 6, 1844; Princess Helena (Princess Christian) on May 25, 1846; Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) on March 18, 1848; and Prince Arthur (Duke of Connaught) on May 1, 1850. This Prince, the third son and seventh child, took his Christian name from his sponsor, the Duke of Wellington. In this same month of May, 1850, and while the Queen was still in delicate health, an assault was committed on her by a lunatic named Pate, who struck her a heavy blow across the face with his cane. This event made her Majesty ill, and was the indirect cause of Sir Robert Peel's death. Returning from Buckingham Palace, where he had called to inquire after the Queen's health, his horse stumbled on Constitution Hill, threw him heavily, and fell upon him (June 29). Peel died on the 2nd of July, and the Queen was for a time inconsolable. Baron Bunsen writes: "The Queen's grief is excessive. She is in a constant flood of tears, and with the greatest difficulty could be prevailed upon to hold the Levée, which, having been fixed for this day (July 3), could not be put off."



QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRINCE CONSORT, 1855 (AGED 36).

Engraved by W. Hole from a Photograph by Miss Day.

Since my dear soul was mistress of my choice,
And could of men distinguish, her election
Hath sealed thee for herself.

SHAKESPEARE.



PAPAL AGGRESSION

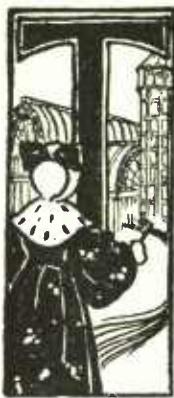


HE death of Peel made a great change in the state of parties. As a result of the split in 1846, Lord Stanley (who succeeded to the earldom of Derby in 1857) had become leader of the Conservative party, with Mr. Benjamin Disraeli as his lieutenant and leader of the party in the Commons. But the Conservative party was at that time strongly leavened with protectionism, and this was an obstacle to their alliance with the Peelites, the small and brilliant band of Peel's personal followers, who, Conservatives in the main, were pledged to free trade. Mr. Disraeli, however, was probably never heartily anxious that the reconciliation should take place, for there was not room in one party for two such men as himself and Mr. Gladstone. The personal rivalry between the two statesmen was destined to have a distinct influence on the political history of the reign. By his education, early associations, and natural temperament, Mr. Gladstone was more inclined towards Toryism than Liberalism. Macaulay had called him "the hope of the stern, unbending Tories," and up to 1858 it remained doubtful whether the eloquent disciple of Canning and Peel would not be kept by his High Church proclivities and by his apparent reverence for the ancient landmarks of the Constitution from definitely joining the party which aimed at the removal of all religious disabilities and at the extension of the suffrage. Mr. Disraeli, on the other hand, was by education a Radical. In speaking for Conservative principles he seemed for many years to be the advocate, holding a brief for his party, but not uttering his convictions, and his efforts in leadership were apparently bent upon making the Conservatives relax their opinions for the sake of some supposed party advantage. He was for long mistrusted by the bulk of those who followed him.

The members of the House of Commons sat for the first time in their new Chamber (the present House) on the 3rd of May, 1850. The old Houses of Parliament had been burned in 1834, and the new palace, built by Sir Charles Barry, has remained, in spite of all the criticisms levelled at it, the most imposing architectural monument of the reign. In the same year, 1850, the renowned Koh-i-noor diamond was presented to the Queen by the Directors of the East India Company, and became one of the Crown jewels. The Papal aggression and the preparations for the International Exhibition of 1851 were the other principal incidents of the twelvemonth. Pius IX. had three years previously announced his intention of dividing Great Britain into Roman Catholic Sees; but when the Papal edict was at length launched it came upon the country like a surprise, and caused an amount of public excitement verging on exasperation. The Church of England, the Universities, the Dissenting bodies, all raised the cry that the Protestant ascendancy was in danger. Indignation meetings were held in every corner of the kingdom, petitions were poured upon Parliament, anti-Papery books and pamphlets were issued from the Press in scores, and the Ministry felt compelled, under the overwhelming pressure of public opinion, to introduce an Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, the which, as originally framed, not only prohibited the use of the new ecclesiastical titles in public documents, but annulled all bequests and gifts of property made to the new Sees or to the titular dignitaries of the same. This vigorous anti-Papal movement cannot be entirely condemned as an exhibition of intolerance. The nation was keenly alive to the benefits which England and Scotland had derived from religious freedom, and the example of many a foreign country showed to what strange misuses the power of Rome was being constantly put to check the developments of political, social, and scientific progress. Cardinal Wiseman, the new Archbishop of Westminster, might ridicule the prejudices of English Protestants, but at the time when he was arguing in the name of tolerance the countries in which the Church of Rome was supreme—that is, Austria, Spain, Portugal, the Kingdom of the two Sicilies, the Italian Duchies, and the States of South America—maintained laws which interdicted Protestants from public worship according to their faith, and debarred Protestants from holding any public office. The error of some of the Protestant champions in England was that they did not place sufficient reliance on the Protestant sturdiness of the people as a mass. In this respect the Queen and Prince Albert saw further than many of the alarmists.

Sincerely religious, they both held "Low Church" opinions, and discerned that the Papal aggression was calculated to do much good by making the Protestants close up their ranks, stimulating their activity, and causing a reaction against the Tractarian movement. This is what actually happened. The revival of zeal, lively faith, and religious well-doing in a multitude of ways, which has brought unspeakable boons to the country, dates from the competition promoted by the stimulus given to High Churchmen by the Tractarian agitation and to Protestant feeling by the Papal aggression.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851



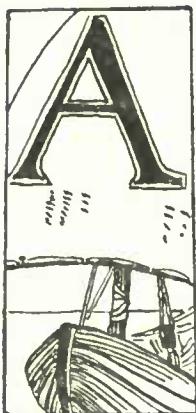
THE idea in which the Exhibition of 1851 originated was in keeping with the religious tolerance and with the large-minded views of human progress which Prince Albert always evinced. The idea was his own, but he had to work for its realization against an extraordinary outburst of angry expostulations. Every stage in his project was combated. In the House of Peers, Lord Brougham denied the right of the Crown to hold the Exhibition in Hyde Park; in the Commons, Colonel Sibthorp prophesied that England would be overrun with foreign rogues and revolutionists, who would subvert the morals of our people, filch their trade secrets from them, and destroy their faith and loyalty towards their religion and their Sovereign. Prince Albert was President of the Exhibition Commission, and every post brought him abusive letters, accusing him, as a foreigner, of being intent upon the corruption of England. He was not the man to be balked by talk of this kind, but quietly persevered, looking always to the probability that the manufacturing power of Great Britain would be quickened by bringing the best manufactured products of foreign countries under the eyes of our mechanics and artisans. The artistic sense was at this time almost wholly wanting among our people. One day the Prince had a conversation with a great manufacturer of crockery, and sought to convert him to the idea of issuing something better than the eternal willow pattern in white with gold, red, or blue, which formed the staple of middle-class and lower-class domestic china. The manufacturer held out that new shapes and designs would not be saleable; but he was induced to try, and he did so, with such a rapid success that a revolution in the china cupboards of England was accomplished from that time.

A great difficulty in regard to the architecture and cost of the proposed Exhibition building was most happily overcome when Mr. Joseph Paxton, head gardener on the Duke of Devonshire's estate at Chatsworth, suggested that the building should be made throughout of glass and iron on the model of a conservatory. The first column was set up on the 26th of September, 1850, and the Exhibition was opened by the Queen on the 1st of May, 1851. Almost every nation in the world had sent its best contributions in Art and Industry, and the opening scene can be best described in the Queen's own words:—

The great event has taken place—a complete and beautiful triumph—a glorious and touching sight, one that I shall ever be proud of for my beloved Albert and my country. . . . I never saw Hyde Park look as it did—a dense mass of enthusiastic human beings so far as the eye could reach. . . . The glimpse of the transept through the iron gates, the waving palms, flowers, statues, myriads of people filling the galleries and seats around, with the flourish of trumpets as we entered, gave us a sensation which I can never forget. The only event which in the slightest degree reminded me of this was the Coronation, but this day's festival was a thousand times superior. In fact, it is unique and can bear no comparison for its peculiarity, beauty, and combination of such different and striking objects. God bless my dearest Albert! God bless my dearest country, which has shown itself so great to-day! One seemed so grateful to the great God who seemed to pervade all and to bless all. . . .

The Exhibition proved in every way a colossal success. It remained open 138 days, and was visited by 6,007,944 persons, an average of 43,536 each day. The surplus, after all expenses had been paid, amounted to £150,000, and this sum was spent on establishing and endowing the Museum at South Kensington, and on the purchase of land in the neighbourhood. As to the intellectual effects of the Exhibition, they soon became visible in the complete renovation of all our processes of manufacture. England was acknowledged to be the first of manufacturing countries, but it found that it had a great deal to learn from foreign competitors, and it did learn. On the other hand, it would be absurd to deny that foreigners, learning from us, made haste to start competitions in branches of industry where formerly we had none. It is the property of all great novelties to bring some partial evil with universal good; and we learn over and over again as we study the course of history that conscientious alarmists—we must lay stress on this adjective—are never wholly unjustified by events.

THE QUEEN AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS



N illustration of this axiom was given in February, 1852, when the entire nation was seized with an invasion scare owing to the impending restoration of the Second Empire in France. On the 2nd of December, 1851, Prince Louis Napoleon struck his *coup d'Etat* which destroyed the French Republic. Lord Palmerston expressed his approval of the Prince's action, taking a very shrewd view of the condition to which France had been reduced by the conflict of Pretenders and parties, and he was dismissed from his post as Foreign Secretary in consequence. In connexion with this dismissal it is

worth while to pause a moment, for the circumstances, which have been told in detail in Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," are of extreme interest for the light they throw on the Queen's very proper estimate of her Constitutional position and authority. At this date, and earlier, Lord Palmerston was not a *persona grata* at Court. His Anglo-Irish nature was not sympathetic with the somewhat formal character and the German training of Prince Albert; and his views of Ministerial independence were not at all in accord with those of the Queen and her husband. Already in 1849, *à propos* of the Hungarian crisis, the Queen had to remind her Foreign Secretary that his despatches must pass through the hands of the Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, and Palmerston assented, and promptly and repeatedly disobeyed. A year later, on August 12, 1850, the Queen wrote to Lord John Russell the following important memorandum, which was communicated to the Foreign Secretary at the time, and which, after his dismissal, was read by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons (February 3, 1852):—

OSBORNE, 12th August, 1850.

With reference to the conversation about Lord Palmerston which the Queen had with Lord John Russell the other day, and Lord Palmerston's disavowal that he ever intended any disrespect to her by the various neglects of which she has had so long and so often to complain, she thinks it right, in order to avoid any mistakes for the future, to explain what it is she expects from the Foreign Secretary.

She requires:—

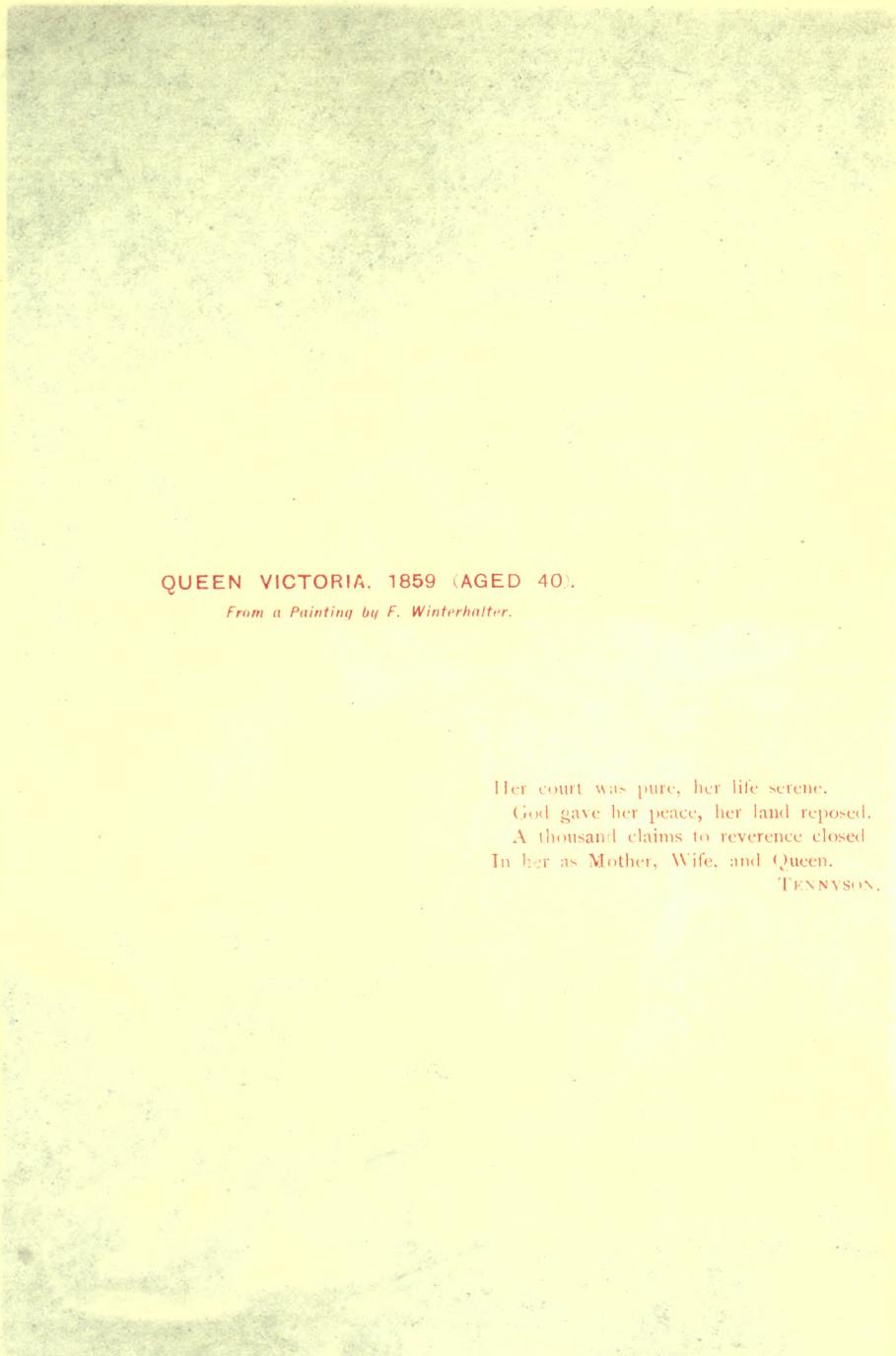
1. That he will distinctly state what he proposes in a given case, in order that the Queen may know as distinctly to what she has given her Royal sanction.

2. Having given her sanction to a measure, that it be not arbitrarily altered or modified by the Minister. Such an act she must regard as failing in sincerity to the Crown, and justly to be visited by the exercise of her Constitutional right of dismissing that Minister. She expects to be kept informed of what passes between him and the Foreign Ministers, before important decisions are taken, based upon that intercourse; to receive the Foreign despatches in good time, and to have the drafts for her approval sent her in sufficient time to make herself acquainted with their contents before they must be sent off. The Queen thinks it best that Lord John Russell should show this letter to Lord Palmerston.

The offence of the Foreign Secretary at the time of the *coup d'État* was that he had, of his own initiative, given assurances to Napoleon's Ambassador, Count Walewski, which were not in accord with the views of the Cabinet and with the neutrality which had been "enjoined" by the Queen. The Prime Minister was justifiably annoyed, the Queen was rightly angry, and Palmerston left the Foreign Office in disgrace—only, however, to come back as Prime Minister three years later, when the country had become thoroughly disgusted with the Aberdeen Government and their conduct of the Crimean War.

To return to the *coup d'État*. At once the nation was thrown into a panic by the idea that the nephew of the Great Napoleon, who was to be proclaimed Emperor on the 2nd of December, 1852, would set his mind on avenging Waterloo, and a national outcry was raised for improving our defensive forces. Those who raised this outcry only showed common prudence. Although, reviewing Napoleon III.'s reign now, we see that it was, generally speaking, his object to stand well with England, yet it must be recognized that his course might have been very different if from the outset of his reign he had been able to make an alliance with Russia. Napoleon III. was an adventurer. When he came to the throne his object was to secure dynastic friends, and had he succeeded in obtaining marks of esteem from the Tsar and the Emperor of Austria he might very well have taken up the policy of avenging Waterloo as the most popular which could have been

commended to his subjects. The Tsar and the Empress of Austria having snubbed him, he became our ally in the Crimea, and declared war against Austria for the liberation of Italy; but the mistakes of the two Emperors and their important consequences could not be foreseen by the people of England in 1852, and Lord John Russell's Government was only making a response to national feeling when it introduced a Militia Bill. Lord Palmerston, being in Opposition, proposed an amendment to this Bill, which was carried by a majority of nine—upon which the Cabinet resigned, and Lord Derby became Premier, with Mr. Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the Lower House. This Administration only lasted from February to December, 1852, when Mr. Disraeli's Budget resolutions were defeated, on an amendment of Mr. Gladstone's, by nineteen votes. A Coalition Ministry of Whigs and Peelites was then formed, Lord Aberdeen becoming Premier, Lord Palmerston Home Secretary, Lord John Russell Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer. It fell to this Cabinet, which lasted two years and nine months, to begin—and to mismanage—the Crimean War.



QUEEN VICTORIA. 1859 (AGED 40).

From a Painting by F. Winterhalter.

Her court was pure, her life serene,
God gave her peace, her land reposed.
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen.

TENNYSON.



Walter J. Colls, R.A. Sc.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

PRINCE ALBERT'S POSITION



HORTLY before the Aberdeen Ministry came into office the Duke of Wellington died. The news reached the Queen at Balmoral and deeply affected her, not only because of the national loss sustained by the death of so great a man, but because the Duke had acquired a position above parties, and was the trusted adviser of all statesmen and of the Court in emergencies. The Queen sadly needed such a counsellor, for Prince Albert's position was one full of difficulty, and party malignity was continually putting wrong constructions upon the advice which he gave, and imputing to him

advice which he did not give. Knowing all that we now do of the Prince, his prudence, his sovereign tact, his deep devotion to his wife and to his adopted country, it seems hardly credible that he should at different times have been defamed as though he were a clumsy political intriguer and actually an enemy of the State. During the Corn Law agitation offence was taken at his having attended a debate in the House of Commons, the Tories declaring that he had gone down to overawe the House in favour of Peel's measures. Subsequently it was imputed to him for a crime that he had advised the Queen to insist that Lord Palmerston should give her timely communication of all the Foreign Office despatches which were sent out in her name. This time the Whigs and Radicals talked of unconstitutionality, and Palmerston was disposed to show fight until he found the Queen firm, upon which he acknowledged the justice of her Majesty's demand "with tears in his eyes." After Palmerston's

enforced resignation, in consequence of his approval of the *coup d'Etat* in France, there was a new and more absurd hubbub. On this occasion public opinion went wildly wrong. Napoleon's destruction of the Republic and his proscription of all the leading statesmen, generals, and writers of France seemed an odious act to the English people, and yet the people were ready to clamour against Prince Albert for having recommended the punishment of the English Minister who had given his sanction to this act. Finally, when the difficulties with Russia arose which led to the Crimean War, the Prince was accused by the peace party of wanting war; by the war party of plotting surrender till it came to be publicly rumoured that the Queen's husband had been found conspiring against the State, and had been committed to the Tower. Some said that the Queen had been arrested too, and the Prince wrote to Stoekmar:—"Thousands of people surrounded the Tower to see the Queen and me brought to it." This gave infinite pain to the Queen, and it was not surprising that the Prince should have been described at this time as looking "very anxious and ill." The Queen at length wrote to Lord Aberdeen, who answered in a memorable letter:—

It is much to be desired that some notice of this subject should be taken in Parliament, where, by being treated in a proper manner, it can effectually be stopped. It cannot be denied that the position of the Prince is somewhat anomalous, and has not been specially provided for by the Constitution; but the ties of Nature and the dictates of common sense are more powerful than constitutional fictions, and Lord Aberdeen can only say that he has always considered it an inestimable blessing that your Majesty should possess so able, so zealous, and so disinterested an adviser. The Prince has now been so long before the eyes of the whole country, his conduct is so invariably devoted to the public good, and his life perfectly inattackable, that Lord Aberdeen has not the slightest apprehension of any serious consequences arising from these contemptible displays of malevolence and faction.

Eventually, when Parliament met on the 31st of January, 1854, Lord John Russell took occasion to deny most emphatically that Prince Albert interfered unduly with foreign affairs, and in both Houses the statesmen of the two parties delivered feeling panegyrics of the Prince, asserting at the same time his entire constitutional right to give private advice to the Sovereign on matters of State. From this time it may be said that Prince Albert's position was established on a secure footing. He had declined (1850) to accept the post of Commander-in-Chief at the Duke of Wellington's suggestion, and he always did refuse to let himself be placed in any situation which would have modified ever so slightly his proper relations with the Queen.

The Queen was very anxious that he should receive the title of "King Consort" and that the Crown should be jointly borne as it was by William III. and Mary; but he himself never spoke a word for this arrangement. It was only to please the Queen that he consented (1859) to change his title to that of Prince Consort, and he only did this when it was manifest that statesmen of all parties approved the change, and were desirous to see it accomplished by way of testifying the national esteem for and confidence in him.

But to return to the Duke of Wellington's death. It may be questioned whether, if the Duke had lived a few years longer, the Crimean War would have occurred. The Commander who had worsted Napoleon was regarded with veneration by all the Sovereigns of the Continent, and by none more so than the Tsar. The gratitude for the services which he had rendered to Europe was unbounded, and the confidence in his military genius had not diminished since Waterloo. There was also an almost superstitious belief in his shrewdness and masterful strategy as a statesman, insomuch that when Louis Philippe was overthrown a French politician, hailing the new-born Republic, exclaimed :—"The Agamemnonate of the Duke of Wellington has now ceased." When the Duke died no Englishman succeeded to his influence; in fact, until Bismarck arose no statesman in Europe wielded a power like his. The Tsar, to use his own words, felt "cut off from England when Wellington died," and at once gave an impetus to the secular Russian policy of destroying Turkey by asserting his protectorate over the Christian populations under Mussulman rule.

THE CRIMEAN WAR



IN the long quarrel between Russia and the Porte which preceded the Crimean war, the French nation had really no great interest, at least no such interest as could justify a Franco-Russian war. Napoleon III., however, was eager to give his newly-established Throne the lustre of military glory, and he was equally intent upon avenging the personal slight which the Tsar had inflicted upon him by treating him as a *parvenu*. To these causes must be chiefly attributed the action which France took in the Eastern Question. The British Government availed itself of the Emperor's mood, and a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, was signed between Great Britain and France. Still the Tsar could not believe that the two nations which had fought at Waterloo could march side by side as allies, nor could he be persuaded that public opinion in England would sanction any war for the protection of the Ottoman Empire. He was misled by the harangues of Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, and other members of the peace party, and he imagined that he could safely work upon the religious feelings of our countrymen by describing his cause as that of the persecuted Christians, in the East. In these sentiments he ordered his troops to cross the Pruth and occupy the Danubian provinces. On the 27th of February, 1854, Lord Clarendon, as Foreign Minister, sent an ultimatum to Count Nesselrode demanding a promise that Moldavia and Wallachia should be evacuated by the 30th of April. To this no answer was returned, and on the 28th of March the formal Declaration of War was published in the *London Gazette*.

The invasion of the Crimea by the allied armies led to a campaign as honourable to our soldiers as it was discreditable to the Government

of the day, or, to speak more correctly, to the system of departmental misgovernment which had prevailed under succeeding Ministries. The battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman opened the campaign with brilliant successes; but after this the armies sat down to the long siege of Sebastopol, and then horrible stories began to reach England about the suffering endured by our troops owing to deficiency of clothing and of stores, and bad commissariat arrangements. The exposure of these iniquities was first made in the columns of *The Times* by its Special Correspondent at the seat of war, Mr. W. H. Russell, and they raised a storm of national indignation which overthrew the Aberdeen Ministry. On Mr. Roebuck's motion for a Committee of Inquiry, January 29, 1855, the Cabinet was defeated by the large majority of 157 in a House of 453 members. Lord John Russell had previously resigned his seals as President of the Privy Council, owing to his dissatisfaction at the Duke of Newcastle's administration at the War Office. Commenting on the division, *The Times* wrote:—

It would tax the best read historical student to produce a more complete case of political collapse than that which it is England's ill fate, sore cost—and we had almost said foul dishonour—to witness this day. The vast prestige of that naval and military organization which we have been nursing so sedulously for these fifty years at the cost of fifteen millions a year, has gone with a touch at the moment of trial.

The Times' Fund was started in consequence of the exposures as to the sufferings of our soldiers, and in a very short time it reached £25,500. The Patriotic Fund was also raised for the relief of the orphans and widows of soldiers and sailors who died in the war, and by the end of the year £500,000 had been collected. Meanwhile Lord Palmerston's Cabinet, which had succeeded Lord Aberdeen's—and which was but a recast of the old Administration—set itself to atone for past omissions by displaying an abundant amount of energy, and, as usually happens in England, an army was at length perfectly equipped for a long struggle at about five times the cost which it would have required to make timely preparations. But after the fall of Sebastopol, in September, 1855, Napoleon III. was disposed for peace. Just as England was ready to carry the war against Russia to lengths which would have crippled that Empire's power of mischief for the remainder of the century, just as Sardinia had been drawn into the alliance, and Austria was preparing to march with us, the French Emperor's ever twisty policy inclined to spare Russia the crushing blow. Nicholas had died suddenly in 1855, and the new Tsar Alexander II. privately

made advances to Napoleon III. which flattered the latter's vanity. Accordingly the negotiations begun at the Congress of Vienna ended in the Peace of Paris (30th of March, 1856), and Great Britain got little out of the war in comparison with the sacrifices she had undertaken and the many sorrows she had suffered in conducting it.

For the Queen and Royal Family the war time was a very busy and exciting one. Her Majesty personally superintended the committees of ladies who organized relief for the wounded; she helped Miss Florence Nightingale in raising bands of trained nurses; she visited the crippled soldiers in the hospitals, and it was through her resolute complaints of the utter insufficiency of the hospital accommodation provided for these poor fellows that Netley Hospital was built. The distribution of medals to the soldiers and the institution of the Victoria Cross (February, 1856) as a reward for individual instances of merit and valour must also be noted among the incidents which occupied the Queen's time and thoughts.

In 1855 the Emperor and Empress of the French visited the Queen at Windsor Castle, and the same year her Majesty and the Prince Consort paid a visit to Paris. An International Exhibition had been opened in the French capital, although the times were not very propitious for such a thing. The Queen was most splendidly received, the fortifications of Paris on the side where she entered were masked with flowers, and the historical Château of Versailles was refurnished for her residence. Among the small occurrences of this visit it may be noted that M. Musard, the conductor of the orchestra at a ball given in the Hôtel de Ville, conceived the curious idea of setting "God Save the Queen" to polka time. The swift silencing of his music by dismayed Chamberlains left the poor man in utter bewilderment.

QUEEN VICTORIA, 1861 (AGED 42).

After a Lithograph by Durand.

First Lady of our English race
In Royal dignity and grace,
Higher than all in old ancestral blood,
But higher still in love of good.

LEWIS MORRIS.



Walter Scott, Esq.

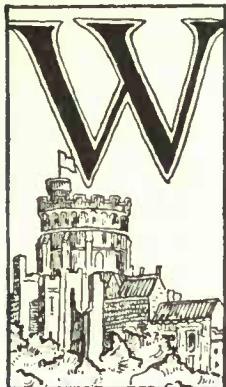
THE INDIAN MUTINY



HE Peace of Paris had scarcely been concluded a year, when it looked as though Russia were going to be avenged for her defeats in the Crimea by seeing Great Britain lose India. The causes which provoked the mutiny of the Sepoys in the Bengal Presidency have been variously explained, but one of them must certainly be looked for in the intrigues which Russian agents had long been pursuing against British rule. As Lord Derby said in describing the Muscovite policy in Eastern Europe:—"Russia works by sap and mine." A belief arose among our native troops that it was intended to convert them by force to Christianity, and this was sedulously propagated by foreign agents, acting not upon the troops themselves, but upon Princes and chiefs in whom the men had confidence. Warnings of the disaffection spreading among the Sepoys were sent to England, but met with little attention, nor were the first announcements of the quickly-suppressed mutiny at Musharabad received with much alarm. In the following month, however, the risings at Lucknow and Allahabad, the shocking massacre of English-women and children at Cawnpore, and the spread of the mutiny to Oudh threw the country into a panic. The butcheries committed by order of Nana Sahib curdled the blood of the most callous reader of newspaper horrors, and, as few people in this country understood Indian affairs thoroughly, it seemed as if the small force of British Regulars in India had been suddenly thrown into conflict with the entire native population of 150,000,000 souls—a conflict which must inevitably lead to the massacre of every European in the dependency. Happily the affair was not so grave as that, but India was only saved to us by the heroic bravery and the marvellous promptitude which our troops showed in coping with the rebellion. They were but a handful,

and they performed the prodigies of a grand army. If anything could console the country for the cruel waste of English lives caused by the neglect of timely warnings as to the state of India, it was the manifestation of indomitable English pluck and brilliant generalship which the mutiny called forth. Lawrence, Outram, Barnard, Neill, Nicholson, Hope Grant, Stephenson, Havelock, became illustrious names in a few weeks. With insufficient troops and scanty supplies, with a torrid climate to enfeeble them, with jungles to delay their marches, with fever and dysentery decimating their ranks, and with sulking masses of hostile populations ready to close around and overwhelm them at the first failure, the British forces achieved a campaign which is not excelled by any in military annals. The fall of Delhi marked the turning point in the operations and the final blow was dealt to the mutiny by Sir Colin Campbell's (Lord Clyde's) relief of the besieged garrison of Lucknow. Before the spring of 1858 India was pacified, but Havelock and his gallant brother generals who had borne the first brunt of the fight were dead. In the Session of 1858 an Act was passed transferring the government of the dependency from the East India Company to the Crown. The change was rendered imperative by the evidence of maladministration which had been brought to light, and a steadfast endeavour was thenceforth made to rule the country with a better regard to the feelings of the native population.

THE QUEEN AND HER FAMILY



WHILE the history of the Queen's reign had to chronicle so many stirring and important events, the Queen's family life was a most happy one. Two more children had been born to the Royal pair since the Duke of Connaught's birth in 1850—Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany) on April 7, 1853; and on April 14, 1857, her Majesty's last child, the Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg), bringing the Royal Family up to nine, four sons and five daughters. Six of these survived their illustrious mother; but Princes Alfred and Leopold and Princess Alice passed away in her lifetime.

Less than a year after Princess Beatrice's birth her Majesty's eldest daughter, the Princess Royal, was married to Prince Frederick William of Prussia, who was destined to reign too short a time over the German Empire as Emperor Frederick.

Of this marriage, as of the others in the Royal Family, it may be said that the first consideration which the Queen always took into view was the domestic welfare of her children. This is no mere conventional phrase. The private chronicles of the Court abound in examples of influential princes who came over to England intending to pay their suits to this or that Princess, but were rejected purely on their personal merits or demerits. Had the Queen not been the best of mothers, several of the alliances of her children might have been more brilliant in the political sense than they were. Although the circle of choice was restricted to Protestant—or, at least, non-Catholic houses—there were Princes and Princesses enough in Europe whose alliance could have been recommended as offering solid political

advantages ; but to the honour of the statesmen who advised the Crown, they did not attempt to thwart the Queen's inclinations, or those of her children, by adducing reasons of State for or against such and such a marriage. The Court never had to be ashamed of an intrigue like that of the Spanish marriages under the French King Louis Philippe ; and, as one Royal betrothal after another came to be announced in Parliament, it was always enough for the Minister of the day to say that the young people loved each other, and such words never failed to evoke general cheering. As a consequence we can say with national pride of the Queen's children that the daughters made good wives and the sons good husbands. In their private relations they have each and all been brought into contact with hundreds or thousands of their mother's subjects, who have found in them all the same honest dispositions, kindness of heart, filial duty, parental love, and brotherly, sisterly affection for one another. Prince Talleyrand once remarked, in allusion to the Dukes of Orleans, Nemours, Aumale, Montpensier, and the Prince de Joinville, Louis Philippe's gifted sons, "Ce sont des jeunes gens comme on n'en voit guère et des princes comme on n'en voit pas." With equal truth could this praise have been given again and again under the form of a ready national recognition of the virtues of the Royal Family as a whole, and of the special qualities distinguishing each individual member of it.

The Queen's children all had an excellent bringing up. Their masters and governesses were chosen with care, and their father himself superintended their education with an unceasing vigilance. He allowed nothing, if he could help it, to interfere with the course of their studies. The State pageants in which they occasionally took part were regarded by them as recreations, but they were not frequent enough to bring any disturbance into the even tenour of lives which resembled those of most gentlemen's children. At Balmoral and Windsor the Court lived in virtual privacy, and the Queen and the Prince Consort saw much of their children. Countless entries in the Queen's diaries testify to the anxious affection with which the progress of each little member of the household was watched. The Prince Consort often went into the schoolroom to see what progress was being made and to confer with the tutors. He was a man of such high intellect that men with first-class degrees from Oxford and Cambridge bent readily to his direction, and entered with the enthusiasm of honest

conviction into the scheme of his teaching. But it belongs rather to parents than to tutors to make children religious, pure-minded, and affectionate, and it must be attributed chiefly to the Prince Consort that his children grew up in the reverence for those simple but straight rules of moral and worldly conduct which make exemplary men and women. It is always touching to notice in the Queen's diaries that her heart went out to the bride or bridegroom who was to become a member of her family. There is no exultation over the power or wealth of the new-comer, but an unsophisticated motherly rejoicing that "Alexandra," "Marie," "Frederick," or "Louis" is likely to make "Bertie" or "Alfred," "Vicky" or "Alice" happy.

The next marriage after the Princess Royal's was that of the Princess Alice, who was united in 1862 to Prince Louis (afterwards Grand Duke) of Hesse-Darmstadt. In 1863 the Prince of Wales married the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, whose beauty won general admiration before the evidences of her gentle, lovable character secured for her the position which she now holds in popular affections. In 1866 the Princess Helena became the wife of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and in 1871 the Princess Louise was wedded to the Marquis of Lorne, eldest son of the Duke of Argyll. This marriage, which broke with the traditions of Royal marriages by admitting a British nobleman—by law a commoner—into the Queen's family was most favourably viewed by the people, but it is the only one of the Royal marriages which has produced no issue. In 1874 the marriage of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, with the Princess Marie Alexandrovna, only daughter of the Tsar Alexander II., was by some regarded as being one of those unions which may have weighty political results, but it has had no result beyond adding to the number of happy homes in the Queen's family. The Duke of Connaught was married in 1879 to the Princess Louise of Prussia, daughter of the soldier Prince Frederick Charles, and in 1882 Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, wedded the Princess Helen of Waldeck-Pyrmont. Finally, the marriage of Princess Beatrice in 1885 with Prince Henry of Battenberg closed the series with another genuine love-match.

On the occasion of the coming of age of the Queen's sons and the marriages of her daughters Parliament made provision. The Prince of Wales, in addition to the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, has £40,000 a year, the Princess £10,000, and, as is stated below, an addition of £36,000 a year for their children was granted by Parliament

in 1889. The Princess Royal received a dowry of £40,000 and £8,000 a year for life; the younger daughters £30,000 and £6,000 a year each, The Dukes of Edinburgh, Connaught, and Albany were each voted an income of £15,000, and £10,000 on marrying. All these grants were voted under the conditions of the general financial settlement accepted by Parliament at the beginning of the Queen's reign, and according to which certain Crown lands were transferred to the nation. In providing for the Queen's children Parliament simply fulfilled a contract.

AFTER THE CRIMEAN WAR



THE attempt on the life of Napoleon III. by Felix Orsini and his accomplices on the 14th of January, 1858, greatly strained the relations between France and England, and brought about the fall of the Palmerston Cabinet. It was alleged that Orsini's plot had been hatched in England; and Count Walewski, Minister for Foreign Affairs, wrote protesting against the asylum which England offered to "murderers and to those who openly preached the doctrine of assassination." At the same time the *Moniteur* published the addresses of several French regiments which contained violently abusive language about England as "the infamous haunt of infernal machinations." These outbursts gave deep offence. Considering that Louis Napoleon had himself enjoyed asylum in England after escaping from the fortress of Ham, where he had been confined for acts of high treason and homicide, the contention of his Government, tending as it did to forbid England to receive political refugees, was inadmissible. Count Walewski apologized for the choleric rodomontade of the French colonels, but the spirit of our people was up; and when Lord Palmerston introduced his "Conspiracy to Murder Bill" (February 9) his haste in this matter was construed as a weak compliance with French dictation. Mr. Milner Gibson proposed a temperate amendment on which the Bill was defeated by 234 to 215 and the Cabinet resigned.

Lord Derby became Premier with Mr. Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Malmesbury Minister for Foreign Affairs. At this time Mr. Disraeli was not liked at Court, for the Queen had not forgotten his ruthless attacks on Peel, and it was considered an advantage that his office of Chancellor of the Exchequer would not bring him often in attendance on her Majesty. His own wish was, it was said, to be Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Lord Malmesbury, as

holder of this office, soon restored amicable relations with the French Government; but the Cabinet did not enjoy the confidence of Parliament or the constituencies. The General Election of 1857 had given the Liberals a majority of more than eighty. In face of the impending war between France and Austria the country wished to have men less impetuous than Lord Derby, and of less erratic mind than Mr. Disraeli at the head of affairs. A few words spoken by Napoleon III. to the Austrian Ambassador on New Year's Day, 1859, filled Europe with alarm. Lord Cowley was sent on a special mission to Vienna to mediate between Austria and France, but it was evident from the first that there could be little hope of his success. It was on the Reform Bill question, however, that the Derby Cabinet was destined to fall. Mr. Disraeli justly animadverted on the conduct of those Liberals who, like Lord John Russell, agitated the question of reform furiously when they were in Opposition but let it slumber when they were in office. As a matter of fact, the country took small interest in the extension of the franchise, and though Lord John Russell had a seal as Foreign Secretary in the second Palmerston Ministry, which succeeded Lord Derby's, reform was shelved until after Palmerston's death.

Lord Palmerston's Cabinet lived through a period of great events which changed the face of the world, and its policy was in the main prudent and firm. Although Lord John Russell was little fitted by the natural bent of his mind or by his decidedly insular character to conduct the Foreign Department, he had the benefit of Palmerston's control, and of the Prince Consort's, to guide him in critical emergencies, and to assist him in repairing the mistakes which he continually committed through excessive meddlesomeness. He had been brought into the Cabinet because he would have overthrown any Liberal Administration with Reform Bill agitations had he been left out of it, and the Foreign Office had been purposely allotted to him in order that his attention might be diverted from home topics, his elevation to the Upper House further helping towards this consummation. But his appointment, when there was such an excellent diplomatist as Lord Clarendon available, was not a happy one; and Earl Russell, as he now became, too often lowered the dignity of England by unnecessarily proffering advice which he must have known could not be acted upon. The war of 1859, which crushed Austria and freed Italy, had its counter-effect in England by starting the Volunteer movement; but it may be doubted if the new invasion scare



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1867 (AGED 48).

From a Photograph by W. & D. Downey

Beyond participation lie
My troubles, and beyond relief.
WORDSWORTH.



W. D. Downey.

Walter D. Downey, Ph. A.

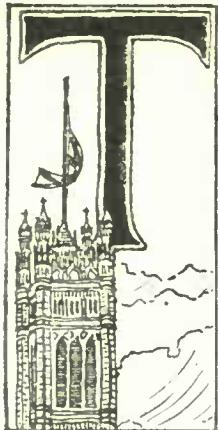
Henry R. St. W.

which propelled this movement had any sufficient justification, for by this time Napoleon III. seems to have made up his mind to live at peace with England. In 1860 the British and French armies once more fought side by side in China, and in the same year Richard Cobden's efforts led to the signature of a treaty of commerce which established something like free trade between the two countries. The results of this were immediately felt in an enormous inflation of revenue, which enabled Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, to prepare a magnificent series of Budgets. These served to make the Cabinet exceedingly popular; while abroad the collapse of the Kingdom of Naples and of the Italian Duchies justified the foresight which Lord Palmerston had always evinced in espousing the cause of Italian emancipation. On this question of Italian unity, again, Mr. Disraeli once more showed himself utterly out of touch with the natural Liberal feeling of England when he said :—

No doubt all the people of Italy might be called Italians,
“ As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,
“ Shoughs, water rags, and demi-wolves are 'cleded
“ All by the name of dogs.”

In 1861 the accession of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States of America caused the Southern States of the Union to revolt, and the murderous war of Secession began. The sympathies of England would have gone naturally with the Northern against the slave-holding States, but the unfriendly attitude of the Northern politicians towards Great Britain—an attitude maintained for years without reason, and in all circumstances where our national welfare or honour was at stake—induced our people to look coldly on the struggle. Among the upper classes, indeed, a very bitter feeling towards America had been engendered by the reckless praises which demagogues bestowed on Republican institutions—praises often lavished without the smallest information and in bad faith—and this feeling blazed out furiously when in November, 1861, the British West India steamer *Trent* was boarded by a vessel of the Federal Navy, the *San Jacinto*; and Messrs. Slidell and Mason, Commissioners for the Confederates States, who were on their way to England, were seized. This was thought such an outrage that there was never an instant's hesitation in the public mind as to how it should be answered, and the prompt surrender of the prisoners at the demand of the British Government alone averted a war, which would have necessarily had the most calamitous effects for both English-speaking countries.

DEATH OF THE PRINCE CONSORT



HAT year, 1861, was the saddest in the Queen's life. In the spring her mother, the Duchess of Kent, died, and on the 14th of December, while the Trent affairs was yet unsettled, the Prince Consort breathed his last at Windsor. Nobody could have suspected that he was so near his end. He was in the flower of manhood, he seemed to be strong and full of animal spirits, and during the whole of the year, when he had to sustain the Queen in her sorrow for the death of her beloved mother, he was always hopeful. But in the autumn his constitution suddenly gave way. He caught a cold which he could not shake off, and he fell into a dangerous condition of mind, thinking, not morosely or despondingly, of death, but looking forward with a calm resignation to the long rest which he felt to be coming. One of his last journeys was to Cambridge to see the Prince of Wales, and his last actual appearance in public was when he reviewed the Eton College Rifle Corps in the Home Park at Windsor in the last week of November. He never left his apartments after that. His doctors said there was not much the matter with him, but he replied (when the Queen was not within hearing) that he knew he should not recover. On the Sunday before his death, while the Royal Family were at church, he lay at home on a sofa while the Princess Alice sang hymns to him. He closed his eyes with a serene expression, and, after some minutes of silence, said, "I am full of happy thoughts." At this time the public had not been informed of the Prince's illness, but in the course of the week symptoms of gastric fever declared themselves, and on the 11th of December a first bulletin was issued. The next day and the next the doctors reported that there was no great danger, but on Saturday

the Prince grew worse and rapidly sank. He died at ten minutes before 11 p.m., surrounded by the Queen and six of his children, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and Prince Leopold being absent. Of the devotion and strength of mind which the Princess Alice showed through the trying scenes preceding and following the death of her father, *The Times* wrote:— “To the Princess’s dutiful care we perhaps owe it that the Queen has borne her loss with such exemplary resignation and a composure which under so sudden and terrible a bereavement could not have been anticipated.”

The Prince had been such a great and good man—so lovable, so perfect in all his duties as husband and father, so tender as well as constant in his affections, so essentially the lover, guide, and comforter of his wife—that his death left a void in the Queen’s life which nothing could ever fill. Kings and Queens are more dependent than other people on the love of wife or husband, for none but a consort can approach them on terms of perfect intimacy. In the Queen’s case the moral ascendancy of her husband had come to be a recognized fact, and the national consternation at the Prince’s death was largely mixed with fears for the consequences which this calamity might have on the august widow. For days the bulletins of the Queen’s health were anxiously scanned. Everybody had put on mourning, and never were the emblems of a national sorrow worn with a truer, deeper, or more universal sympathy.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES



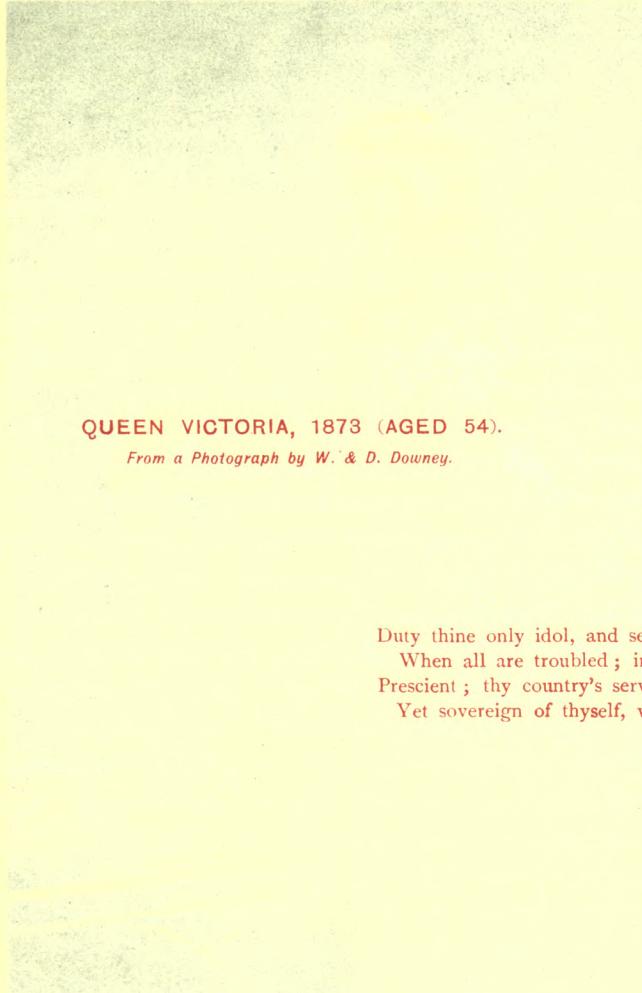
NEW epoch in the Constitutional history of England was opened with the Prince Consort's death. The position which the Prince had won for himself is illustrated by the fact that one of the last acts of his life was to draw up suggestions, all with a view to promote a peaceful issue, for Lord Russell's despatch to Mr. Seward on the Trent affair. It is certain that had the Prince lived the course of our political history during the last forty years would have been in many respects different from what it has been. When he died the controlling power of the Crown fell temporarily into comparative abeyance. The Queen in her deep affliction retired for several years into almost complete privacy. Never again during her reign did the Queen live in London, and Buckingham Palace was only used for occasional visits of a few days. For a time she was naturally diffident of exercising her full authority in State affairs, though with added experience and years her personal influence became more felt, and was never greater than at the time of her death. So long as Lord Palmerston lived the inconveniences of the Queen's temporary withdrawal were not much felt, but Palmerston himself foresaw that mischief might some day arise if party conflicts should come to be fought out without the restraints which Constitutional Monarchy is intended to impose. At the time of the Prince's death the Prince of Wales was in his twenty-first year. He had spent several terms at each of the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and he had already travelled much, having visited most of Europe, Egypt, and the United States. In 1862 he was betrothed to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and in the same year the Princess Alice, whose devotion had so much comforted the Queen during the first months of her bereavement, was married to Prince Louis of Hesse. That same year, 1862,

witnessed the terrible Hartley Colliery accident, in which 199 men perished; the outbreak of the cotton famine in Lancashire, owing to the stoppage of cotton supplies from America; and the opening of the second International Exhibition at South Kensington. The Prince Consort had been at the head of the Committee for this second Exhibition, and his death, with the consequent Court mourning, deprived it of much of the success which must have attended it in happier circumstances. Of the cotton distress it must be recorded that the fortitude shown by the thousands of families of suffering operatives—their patience and good behaviour, the absence of all revolutionary ferment among them, and the generous sympathy which their troubles evoked from the rich—turned a national calamity into a trial of which the nation had some cause to be proud. Not less than £640,000 in all was subscribed for the operatives, and much good was done by the Cotton Supply Association, which imported cotton from India to feed the looms.

The Prince of Wales's marriage was solemnized at Windsor on the 10th of March, 1863. The public entry of the bride-elect into London on the 7th of March was a sight which those who witnessed it can never forget, as affording an almost unexampled display of loyalty and enthusiasm. The Queen witnessed the wedding from the private pew or box of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, but she wore the deep mourning which she was never wholly to put off to the end of her life, and she took no part in the festivities of the wedding. In January, 1864, a son was born to the Prince of Wales, and was christened Albert Victor after both his grandparents. At this epoch the Princess of Wales's father had just succeeded to the throne of Denmark, and Austria and Germany demanded the retrocession of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein to the Germanic confederation. Christian IX. resisted the claim, and Prussia dragged Austria into making war with Denmark. Public indignation in England ran high at the sight of the two great nations attacking the smaller State, but much of the public feeling undoubtedly had its origin in admiring regard for the Princess of Wales. However, under the stress of popular clamour, negotiations began with France for a joint action in the Duchies, and had Napoleon III. been willing to go whole lengths, 40,000 English troops would have been landed in Jutland. It is fortunate that Napoleon hesitated, and that our own Ministers recognized in time the unwisdom of urging him on, for in going to war with Prussia we should only have been playing France's game. When the first

ebullition of public feeling had subsided, this was admitted by all parties, although a sediment of contrition remained in the public mind as to our having abandoned the country of our future Queen, and to the end of the struggle the gallant achievements of the Danish army and navy were watched with the most lively partisanship by our people.

In 1865 a General Election gave a substantial majority to the Palmerston Administration, then in its seventh year of office-holding. A few months previously Richard Cobden, the great apostle of Free Trade and Peace, had died, and before the year closed Lord Palmerston and Leopold I. of Belgium, the Queen's uncle, had also ceased to live. In King Leopold the Queen lost a valued counsellor, who since the Prince Consort's death had advised her often and always well in family affairs; while in Lord Palmerston she lost the only Minister who was capable of controlling Mr. Gladstone. "I have my drawers full of Gladstone's resignations," said Palmerston shortly before his death; but Mr. Gladstone, though he was always putting ultimatums into his chief's hands, had the acumen to judge at the critical moment whether it would be well to resign or stay. In the election of 1865 Mr. Gladstone was politically "unmuzzled," as he himself called it, through being rejected by the University of Oxford. Lord John Russell succeeded to the nominal Premiership on Palmerston's death, but he was too aged and enfeebled to steer an Administration through the Reform cyclone which now set in. He had sown the wind and he reaped the whirlwind. On the 18th of June, 1866, Lord Dunkellin's amendment to the Government Reform Bill was carried by 315 votes to 304, and the third Derby-Disraeli Administration came into office. Two years and a half were to elapse before the Liberals returned to power, but this time was one of discredit to the Conservatives, and of damage to the principles on which party government had generally been conducted since the beginning of the reign. The distinguished services which Mr. Disraeli rendered during his subsequent Administration cannot obliterate that page of his history which records his "dishing of the Whigs," by proposing to lower the franchise beyond a point which the most eager practical reformers then demanded. Three members of the Cabinet, Lord Cranborne (Salisbury), Lord Carnarvon, and General Peel would have nothing to do with the disingenuous trick, but resigned; they did not, however, carry enough members of their party along with them to compel the retirement of the Ministry.



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1873 (AGED 54).

From a Photograph by W. & D. Downey.

Duty thine only idol, and serene
When all are troubled; in the utmost need
Prescient; thy country's servant ever seen,
Yet sovereign of thyself, whate'er may speed.

DISRAELI.



W. & D. Downey

Walter & Sons Ltd.

1869

THE AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN WAR



N the very week of 1866 when the Russell Cabinet fell, the Austro-Prussian war broke out. It was a war which at its outset seemed destined to a long duration, and promised endless complications, and yet it was all over in seven weeks. The causes of the strife, which arose directly out of the Danish war, lay in the long-standing competition between Prussia and Austria for supremacy in Germany. But the struggle had been maturely planned by the mighty statesman Otto von Bismarck (whose name was just then beginning to resound in Europe), and by the greatest strategist of the age, Von Moltke. Attacked by Italy on one side, and by Prussia on the other, uncertain of her own Hungarian troops, and badly seconded by her Saxon, Hanoverian, Bavarian, and Wurtemberg allies, Austria had to succumb, though not until she had inflicted defeats on Italy by land and on sea which saved her military honour. In England the sympathies with the contending hosts were curiously mixed, for it was hoped that Austria would beat Prussia and be worsted by Italy, which was the exact contrary of what did take place. In France the Imperial Government was quite resolved that the war should turn in some way to France's advantage, but the rapidity of the operations which culminated in the battle of Sadowa took Napoleon III. by surprise. He was already giving signs of intellectual decay, and he deferred his decree of mobilization till it was too late. When he stood ready to interfere, Austria was no longer disposed to continue the struggle. The results of the war were that Hanover and the Electorate of Hesse-Cassel were incorporated into Prussia, Saxony was reduced to the rank of a vassal State, Austria was driven out of the Germanic Confederation, and Venetia was added to Italy, after having been ceded *pro forma* to France.

As an ulterior consequence Hungary recovered its ancient rights from Austria, and became an autonomous kingdom under the Dual system.

In all these changes there was nothing adverse to British interests. On the contrary, the establishment of Protestant Prussia as the leading power in Germany, the unification of Italy, the enfranchisement of Hungary, and the diminution of France's position in Europe, were objects which England might well have deemed worth fighting for, and which it was a wondrous boon to see accomplished without our having been obliged to draw the sword. Of course this was not recognized at once, and many short-sighted people were tempted to side with France, when, in 1867, Napoleon III. sought to obtain a "moral compensation" by laying a claim to the Duchy of Luxemburg. A conference met in London, and the difficulty was settled by neutralizing the Duchy, and ordering the evacuation of the Prussian troops who kept garrison there. But this solution, which averted an imminent war, was only arrived at through Queen Victoria's personal intercession. In the words of a French writer:—

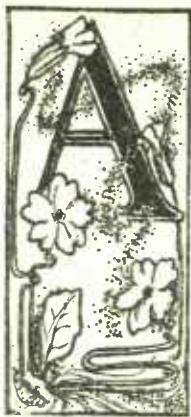
The Queen wrote both to the King of Prussia and to the Emperor Napoleon. Her letter to the Emperor, pervaded with the religious and almost mystic sentiments which predominate in the Queen's mind, particularly since the death of Prince Albert, seems to have made a deep impression on the Sovereign, who, amid the struggles of politics, has never completely repudiated the philanthropical theories of his youth, and who, on the battle-field of Solferino, covered with the dead and wounded, was seized with an unspeakable horror of war.

Shortly after the London Conference had finished its work the Empress Eugénie paid the Queen a visit at Osborne, and invited her Majesty to go on a private visit to Paris to see the great exhibition. The Second Empire had at this date reached the *apogée* of its splendour. Almost all the Sovereigns of Europe were Napoleon III.'s guests in that memorable exhibition year. The Emperors of Russia and Austria, the Sultan, the Kings of Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Belgium, Holland, and Greece, the Queen of Spain, and many more princes and celebrities flocked to visit the capital which the French Emperor had rendered so splendid. An attempt made on the life of the Tsar Alexander II. by a Pole named Berezowski marred the visit which the Russian and Prussian Sovereigns paid together, and during the Sultan's sojourn the sad news arrived that the Emperor of Mexico (Archduke Maximilian of Austria) had been shot by the Republican insurgents under Juarez. These were clouds which bore

prognostications of future evil, for the collapse of the Mexican Empire, which Napoleon had tried to rear, shook public faith in his statesmanship and brought discredit on the French army; while the attempt on the Tsar's life and the subsequent finding of "extenuating circumstances" for Berezowski by a Parisian jury alienated Russia from France at a critical moment. But in 1867 nobody, not even the King of Prussia and Count Bismarck, foresaw that within three years Napoleon's throne would be shattered, and France be humbled in the dust.

The visit of the Sultan Abdul Asiz to Paris was the first visit which any Turkish Sovereign had ever paid to a Christian capital in a peaceful capacity. His Majesty also came to England, was invested with the Order of the Garter, and witnessed a naval review held at Spithead in his honour.

MR. DISRAELI AND MR. GLADSTONE



LAWLESS spirit was rife throughout England in the years 1866-7-8. The Reform Bill agitation caused some disgraceful riots in Hyde Park ; in manufacturing towns a series of dastardly trade union outrages compelled Parliament to appoint a Royal Commission, and the infamies committed at Sheffield by a miscreant named Broadhead, became public ; finally, the Fenian movement gathered strength, owing partly to the thoughtless encouragements given by Mr. Gladstone and other Opposition leaders to Irish disaffection. In September, 1867, a party of forty Fenians made an attack in Manchester upon a police van which was conveying two Fenians to prison, and a brave sergeant named Brett was shot in the faithful execution of his duty. Three men—Allen, Larkin, and Gould—were arrested for this offence, and rightly hanged ; but the reprobation of their conduct on the part of the Opposition was far from being emphatic enough, and on the 13th of December another outrage was perpetrated in the endeavour to blow up a part of the Clerkenwell House of Detention. Of this crime Mr. Gladstone afterwards stated that “it brought the question of disestablishing the Irish Church within the region of practical politics.”

Lord Derby, whose health was failing, found himself unequal to the strain of official duties, and resigned in February, 1868, and Mr. Disraeli succeeded him as Premier. It was doubted during several days whether the Queen would not send for the Duke of Richmond rather than for Mr. Disraeli, who had not yet won the favour of the Court ; but her Majesty did violence to her own feelings in order to perform an act of justice towards the man who was undeniably the head of the Conservative party. During his brief Premiership,

Mr. Disraeli had to propose the thanks of Parliament to Lord Napier of Magdala for his victories in Abyssinia, and he was credited with an admirable appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury in Dr. Tait. This, however, was really the Queen's doing. The late Dean Wellesley wrote to Dr. Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, in November, 1868:—

The Church does not know what it owes to the Queen. Disraeli has been utterly ignorant, utterly unprincipled. He rode the Protestant horse one day, then got frightened that he had gone too far and was injuring the county elections, so he went right round, and proposed names never heard of. Nothing he would not have done, but throughout he was most hostile to you. He alone prevented London from being offered to you. The Queen looked for Tait (for the Primacy), but would have agreed to you. . . . Disraeli would not hear of you, and at last agreed reluctantly and with passion to Tait. Disraeli then proposed Wordsworth for London; the Queen objected strongly and suggested Jackson, with two others, and Disraeli chose Jackson.

Dean Wellesley writing upon Mr. Disraeli, whom he cordially disliked, must be taken *cum grano*, but it has been said with some justice that during Mr. Disraeli's two Premierships the parts of Sovereign and Minister became often inverted, that Disraeli reigned and the Queen governed. Disraeli, at all events, rightly thought that the Queen ought to be a power in the State. His notion of duty—at once a loyal and chivalrous one—was that he was obliged to give the Queen the best of his advice, but that the final decision in any course lay with her, and that once she had decided, he was bound, whatever might be his own opinion, to stand up for her decision in public. A somewhat different conception of the Sovereign's functions was that of Mr. Disraeli's successor, Mr. Gladstone, who, though his respect for the person and office of the Sovereign was unbounded, not only expected all people, the Queen included, to agree with him when he changed his mind, but to become suddenly enthusiastic about his new ideas. The Queen was opposed to the Disestablishment of the Irish Church—the question which brought Mr. Gladstone to be Premier. She yielded with good grace, but Mr. Gladstone was fretful and astonished because she would not pretend to give a hearty assent to the measure. The measure was, perhaps, a just one, but as it was with the Queen, so it was with the country; nobody out of Ireland felt very strongly on the subject, and Mr. Gladstone carried his enormous majority at the General Election of 1868 because the mass of the new electorate had a boundless faith in him personally and an equal antipathy towards his rival.

It happens that to the historian of the Queen this matter of Irish Disestablishment is of peculiar interest, for it is one of the few political

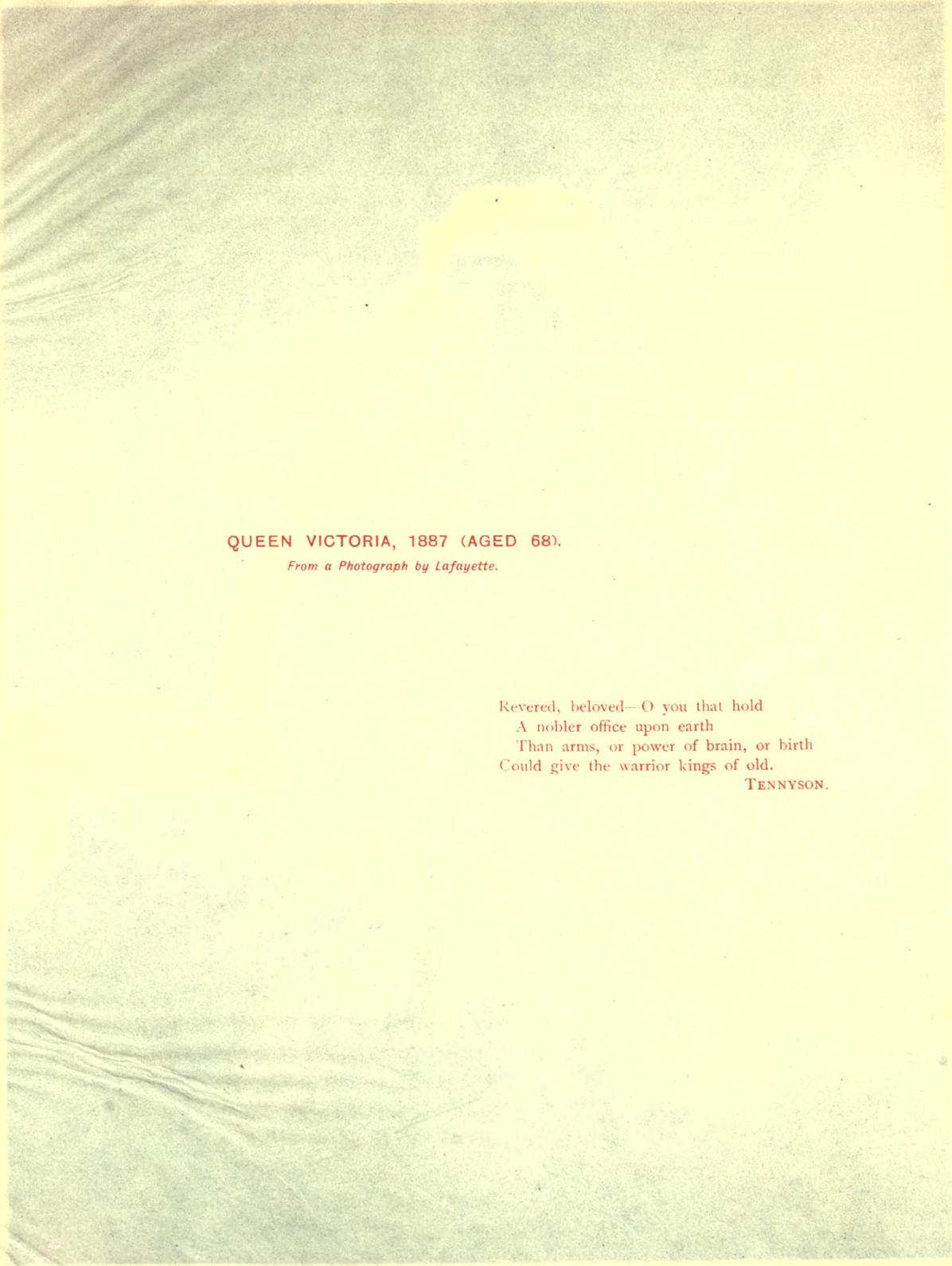
questions in the second half of the Queen's reign in regard to which we have a definite published record of her Majesty's opinions and actions. The "Life of Archbishop Tait" contains a deeply interesting correspondence between the Queen and the Primate on the line to be taken with regard to the second reading, in the House of Lords, of the Government Bill; a correspondence which it is impossible to read without renewed admiration for the political wisdom, as well as the high religious character, of the Sovereign. The Bill had passed the House of Commons; it seemed certain that the House of Lords would reject it, and the Queen, like the Archbishop, was deeply desirous that a conflict between the two Houses, resulting in a long and bitter agitation in the country, should not take place upon a religious question. Her Majesty commanded the Archbishop to confer with Mr. Gladstone, with a view of coming to some agreement as to the limits of disendowment; and then, after a meeting of peers had decided (Lord Salisbury dissenting) to oppose the second reading of the Bill, she endeavoured, through the Archbishop, to modify this decision and to persuade the Lords to be content with improving the Bill in Committee. Through her secretary, General Grey, the Queen pointed out that she had not concealed from Mr. Gladstone "how deeply she deplored" his having felt himself under the necessity of raising the question, and how apprehensive she was of the possible consequences of the measure; but, when a General Election had pronounced on the principle, when the Bill had been carried through the House of Commons by unvarying majorities, she did not see what good could be gained by rejecting it in the Lords. Later, when through the skilful diplomacy of the Primate, the Lords had passed the second reading by a small but sufficient majority (179 to 146), and after various amendments had been adopted, the Queen herself wrote:—

The Queen . . . is very sensible of the prudence and at the same time the anxiety for the welfare of the Irish Establishment which the Archbishop has manifested during the course of the debates, and she will be very glad if the amendments which have been adopted at his suggestion lead to a settlement of the question; but to effect this, concessions, the Queen believes, will have to be made on *both* sides. The Queen must say that she cannot view without alarm the possible consequences of another year of agitation on the Irish Church, and she would ask the Archbishop seriously to consider, in case the concessions to which the Government may agree should not go so far as he may himself wish, whether the postponement of the settlement for another year may not be likely to result in worse rather than in better terms for the Church. The Queen trusts, therefore, that the Archbishop will himself consider, and, as far as he can, endeavour to induce the others to consider, any concessions that may be offered by the House of Commons in the most conciliatory spirit.

The correspondence of which this letter forms part is one of the few published witnesses to the Queen's careful and active interest in home politics during the latter half of her reign; but it is certain that, when the secret archives of the Victorian era come to be published, the world will find this to be merely one example out of many. Of itself, however, it is enough to prove how wise, how moderate, and how steeped in the spirit of the Constitution she was; how she disliked the premature raising of vital issues, and how at the same time she recognized the truth that, when the country had definitely declared its will at a General Election, it would be the height of unwisdom not to give effect to that decision. Another instance that occurs to the mind is that of the County Franchise and Redistribution Bills of 1884-85. There, again, a conflict between the two Houses was imminent, and we believe it to be the fact that the Queen's wish for a settlement had considerable weight in bringing about the curious but effective conference of the two parties, of which the first suggestion, it is affirmed, was due to Lord Randolph Churchill.

The colleagues of Mr. Gladstone in his first Administration were as gifted a band of men as had ever been gathered in a Cabinet. There were five Oxford first class men among them, and they were all remarkable for distinguished public services; yet this Ministry, owing to wayward leadership, became unpopular before it had run half its course. It remained in office more than five years, and wrought great changes, some of which were wholly good. The Disestablishment of the Irish Church, the first Irish Land Act, the Education Act, the introduction of the Ballot—which had ceased to be much opposed since the extension of the franchise—the final removal of religious disabilities in the Universities, and the Abolition of Purchase in the Army, were all reforms which commended themselves to national opinion. On the other hand, Mr. Gladstone indulged so recklessly in promises to set all things right that he warranted the expostulations of the Conservatives, who complained that every profession was being harassed, and every interest threatened. Furthermore the foreign policy of the country was carried on in a nerveless manner, uncongenial with the spirit of the English race. The doctrine of non-intervention was too openly promulgated; it was currently prated, if not by the Ministers, at least by their supporters, that our colonies must shift for themselves, and that if it pleased them to leave us we could well spare them. Mr. Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, thought it decorous to say in Parliament that “we might at any time

be plunged into a costly war, through one of our officials drinking a glass of sherry too much." Strong-minded, cynical stuff like this gave offence, not less than the sneers with which it became the fashion to talk of patriotism as though it were a narrow-minded weakness. We may look back with "sombre acquiescence" upon the payment of £4,000,000 to the United States for the *Alabama* claims, for this was done in accordance with a properly executed treaty; and he who consents to arbitration must accept the consequences; but it is difficult, at the moment when the whole Empire has stood together on the field of battle, and when Australia has federated herself under the British Crown, to read the talk of those days as to the colonies and the mother country with any other feeling than disgust.



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1887 (AGED 68).

From a Photograph by Lafayette.

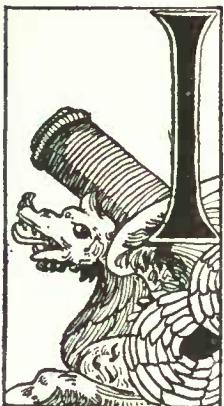
Revered, beloved—O you that hold
A nobler office upon earth
Than arms, or power of brain, or birth
Could give the warrior kings of old.

TENNYSON.



Walter L. Collins, Ph. Sc.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR



N 1870 came the great war between France and Germany, and it must be admitted that the policy of the Gladstone Government in respect of this eventful struggle, though it lacked the externals of dignity, was a safe one. The Germans have reproached us for not siding with them from the outset of the war; the French have anathematized us for not going to their rescue, and for not having at least prevented the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine by Germany. The general results of the war could not but appear satisfactory to England.

The unification of Germany by the proclamation of the German Empire, the unification of Italy by the confiscation of the Pope's temporal power, raised mighty guarantees for the maintenance of peace in Europe. France crushed became for the time harmless to us. Her alliance had always been fickle, her rivalry and jealousy continuous, and her intrigues, to our hurt or alarm, frequent. Napoleon III. eventually sought a refuge in this country. He was received with respect, and both he and the Empress Eugénie constantly received marks of kindness and attention from the Queen and the Royal Family. But the British public felt that he had got his throne by treacherous means, ruled by a policy of flashy enterprises and systematic corruption, and ended by entirely demoralizing the French nation; and so his downfall seemed a good thing to right-minded persons in this kingdom. There was one result of the war which brought home too acutely to our people that the policy of non-intervention has its inconvenience. When Russia tore up the Treaty of Paris and we could not so much as bring Austria and Turkey, whose interests were

touched to the quick by this act, to side with us in compelling obedience to the treaty, then it became evident that the fruits of the Crimean war—such as they were—had been largely wasted.

Towards the end of 1871 the shadow of a great misfortune hung threateningly over the country and the Queen. In November the Prince of Wales was attacked with typhoid fever; on December 8, after making good progress, he had a severe relapse, and for many days his life was in imminent danger. The blackest moment was just before December 14, the tenth anniversary of the Prince Consort's death; but that day the improvement began, and his Royal Highness's recovery was assured. The intense excitement and sympathy of the whole people greatly touched the Queen, who gave full expression to her gratitude in a letter to her subjects, written on December 26. Their sympathy, she wrote, has made "a deep and lasting impression on her heart which can never be effaced. It was, indeed, nothing new to her, for the Queen had met with just the same sympathy when, just ten years ago, a similar illness removed from her side the mainstay of her life, the best, wisest, and kindest of husbands." The sympathy thus nobly recognized found extraordinary expression two months later, on February 27, 1872, when the Queen and the Royal Family went in state to St. Paul's to return thanks for the Prince's recovery. The Queen, before and since, saw many sights of the kind—hundreds of thousands of her people spontaneously met to receive and cheer her—but never was any sight more grateful to her, and never was the expression of joy and thankfulness more enthusiastic or more universal.

On the 24th of January, 1874, a fortnight before the date fixed for the opening of Parliament, Mr. Gladstone issued a manifesto, suddenly announcing the dissolution of Parliament and promising the abolition of the Income-tax. The bribe was a coarse one, and the country rejected it. The General Election, which took place for the first time under the ballot, gave the Conservatives a clear majority of fifty votes, and Mr. Disraeli once more became Prime Minister. Mr. Gladstone soon afterwards resigned his leadership of the Liberals, and during the two ensuing years he abandoned himself to religious controversy, writing pamphlets and articles for reviews, and giving out to the world that he had no wish or hope to take a leading part in politics again.

THE QUEEN AND LORD BEACONSFIELD



T was a genuine Conservative reaction which brought the Conservatives to power in 1874—not reaction in a political sense, but a recoil from the destructive tendencies of Mr. Gladstone and the least wise among his followers who happened to be the men having most influence over him. During the Queen's reign England never made a dead halt on the march towards progress, but after five years of Mr. Gladstone's bewildering activity, sensible men were inclined to take stock of the institutions still upstanding, and to consider carefully what might be left and what ought to be improved. The statesman who felled trees for his private amusement seemed, politically, to live in a forest of upas trees, and there was scarcely a sapling or a sprout which had not been marked out by him, or by one of his tiro band of woodmen, for felling.

Lord Salisbury and Mr. Disraeli made up their differences, and a Government was formed which might have been called strong but for one weak link in the chain—Lord Derby, who became Foreign Secretary. Lord Derby, the son of the former Prime Minister, had the talent for powerful reasoning without the capacity for decisive acting. He balanced the pros and cons of every question so nicely that between the two weights he stood immovable. Lord Salisbury, with far more bias of mind, had a much greater force of character, while his high sense of public and private honour, his intellectual culture, and effective eloquence marked him out signally as one of the foremost statesmen of the country. Mr. Disraeli remained little more than two years in the House of Commons after his accession to the Premiership. In 1886 he was raised to the peerage with the title of Earl of

Beaconsfield (the title of Viscountess Beaconsfield had been bestowed on Mrs. Disraeli after her husband's first Premiership), and in the Upper House, amid congenial surroundings, with more ease and less excitement, and wearing an English name, he seemed to acquire that "naturalization" as an Englishman which formerly had appeared to be wanting in him. Between the Earl of Beaconsfield in power with a swelling majority, and Mr. Disraeli in opposition and spying out for party advantages, there was the same difference as exists between an adventurer struggling for fortune and an adventurer who has become rich and honoured. From his earliest days this remarkable man had noted the opportunities which English public life offers to genius, and he had resolved to become Prime Minister; but he was in too great a hurry to succeed, and he paid for his over-haste by exclusion from power—if not from office—during the long years when his intellect and nerve were strongest. When he reached the goal of his wishes he was well stricken in years, his spirit had been chastened, his character, always kindly and affectionate towards his friends, had mellowed into a chronic gentleness, pervaded with good humour and no little magnanimity. History will record that he ruled well. He possessed the art, lacking in Mr. Gladstone, of keeping a party together and of smoothing away the little irritations of personal vanity by the great charm of his manner. With Mr. Gladstone every molehill difficulty became a mountain; with Lord Beaconsfield mountains became passable or were circumvented. Nor should it be forgotten that Lord Beaconsfield possessed another art which was denied to his rival; he knew how to secure the personal regard, and even the affection, of his Sovereign. Not, we may be sure, by the methods of gross flattery which his enemies used to attribute to him, but by tact, consideration, and the power of leading the Queen to believe that he was inspired by a passionate patriotism, Lord Beaconsfield in the last seven years of his life won a place in the Queen's esteem which had been conceded to none of her Prime Ministers since those early days when she had learned her duties under the devoted tuition of Lord Melbourne. Lord Beaconsfield's death in 1881 was the cause of a greater sorrow to the Queen than any she experienced in her later years, except from the death of those closely akin to her. It is pleasant to be able to add that, of late years, the loss was almost entirely made good by Lord Salisbury, who was the Queen's Prime Minister for twelve years out of fifteen, and in whom her Majesty came to repose a more and more absolute confidence as time went on.

The Home legislation of the Conservative Administration was not of a sensational character. The Public Worship Regulation Act was an attempt to deal with ecclesiastical anomalies, which required thorough treatment or were better left untouched. In Sir Stafford Northcote's hands the finances were safe, though no brilliant Budgets were forthcoming. The transfer of borough and county gaols to State control was a useful measure in the direction taken by the Gladstone Government when it purchased the telegraph lines for private companies and transferred them to the Post Office. Under the Duke of Abercorn, and subsequently under the Duke of Marlborough, the government of Ireland was carried on with sufficient firmness and there was a notable decrease of agrarian outrages. In 1876 a Bill was introduced into Parliament for conferring on the Queen the title of "Empress of India." It met with much opposition and Mr. Disraeli was accused of ministering simply to a whim of the Sovereign, whereas in fact the title was intended to impress the idea of England's suzerainty forcibly upon the minds of the native Princes and upon the populations of Hindustan. The Prince of Wales's voyage to India in the winter of 1875-6 had brought the heir to the Throne into personal relationship with the great Indian vassals of the British Crown, and it was felt that a further demonstration of the Queen's interest in her magnificent dependency would confirm their loyalty in face of the many insidious attempts made by Russia to subvert it. At the time (1877) when the Queen was solemnly proclaimed Empress, at a Durbar held in Delhi by the Governor-General, the Eastern Question had been revived and was apparently about to be pressed by Russian arms to a definite solution. The great trouble of the Ministry was this Eastern Question. The repudiation of the Black Sea Clauses of the Treaty of Paris with no more than a nominal protest from England emboldened Russia to stir up the Balkan States against Turkey. Servia led the attack and, contrary to Russian expectation, was thoroughly beaten. A conference was summoned at Constantinople to stay Turkey's hand, and Lord Salisbury was accredited as chief British plenipotentiary. The Conference led to nothing and only gave Russia time to prepare for war against Turkey for the ostensible emancipation of Bulgaria. At this turn in affairs Mr. Gladstone resumed political activity by raising the cry of "Bulgarian atrocities." It was proved that the Bulgarians—a hard-working and thrifty people—had been fairly content with their condition under Turkish rule and when stirred up to revolt by the

Russians went into battle half-heartedly. The Turks are not tender--nor are the Russians—in putting down rebellions; and in many places acts of downright savagery were committed by the Bashi-Bazouks. But Mr. Gladstone took these abominations as pretexts for an indictment against England's traditional policy in upholding the Ottoman Empire. He endeavoured to rouse the Christian feeling of the nation against the unspeakable Turk and to represent Russia's aggressive policy as an unselfish crusade on behalf of civilization. He quite forgot, as he did all this, that the Queen had 40,000,000 of Mussulman subjects in India and that if Islam had raised the standard of a Holy War the convulsion would have been felt from the Himalayas to Ceylon.

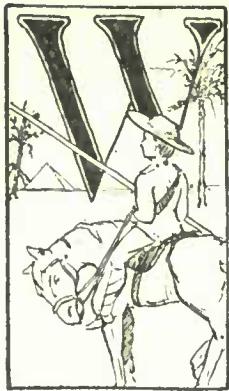
The Russians were at first beaten in their war, then, by the help of the Roumanians and by treachery on the Turkish side, they vanquished Osman Pasha at Plevna and marched to San Stefano at the very gates of Constantinople. At this point they stopped, burning to go forward, but not daring. Austria-Hungary was ready to interfere, England had sent her fleet to the Bosphorus, and in the City of London an enthusiastic meeting of 5,000 bankers, merchants, and tradesmen voted resolutions affirming the national confidence in the Ministry. The Treaty of San Stefano, which General Ignatief had signed, had to be withdrawn, and in 1878 a Congress met at Berlin to arbitrate between Russia and Turkey. The fruits of the Conference were "Peace with Honour," so far as England was concerned. The Principality of Bulgaria was created, Servia was enlarged, Roumania was rewarded for her exertions on Russia's behalf by being deprived of Bessarabia and receiving the Dobrudscha which she did not want; finally, Cyprus was handed over to the occupation of England.

The Queen's private life during the decade 1870-80 was one of quiet, broken only by one great sorrow when the Princess Alice died in 1878. In 1867 her Majesty had started in authorship by publishing "The Early Days of the Prince Consort," compiled by General Grey; in 1869 she gave to the world her interesting and simply-written diary entitled "Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands," and in 1874 appeared the first volume of "The Life and Letters of the Prince Consort" (second vol. in 1880), edited by Sir Theodore Martin. A second instalment of the Highland journal appeared in 1885. These literary occupations solaced the hours of a life which was mostly spent in privacy, although the Queen regularly transacted all the State business incumbent on her and on occasions appeared in

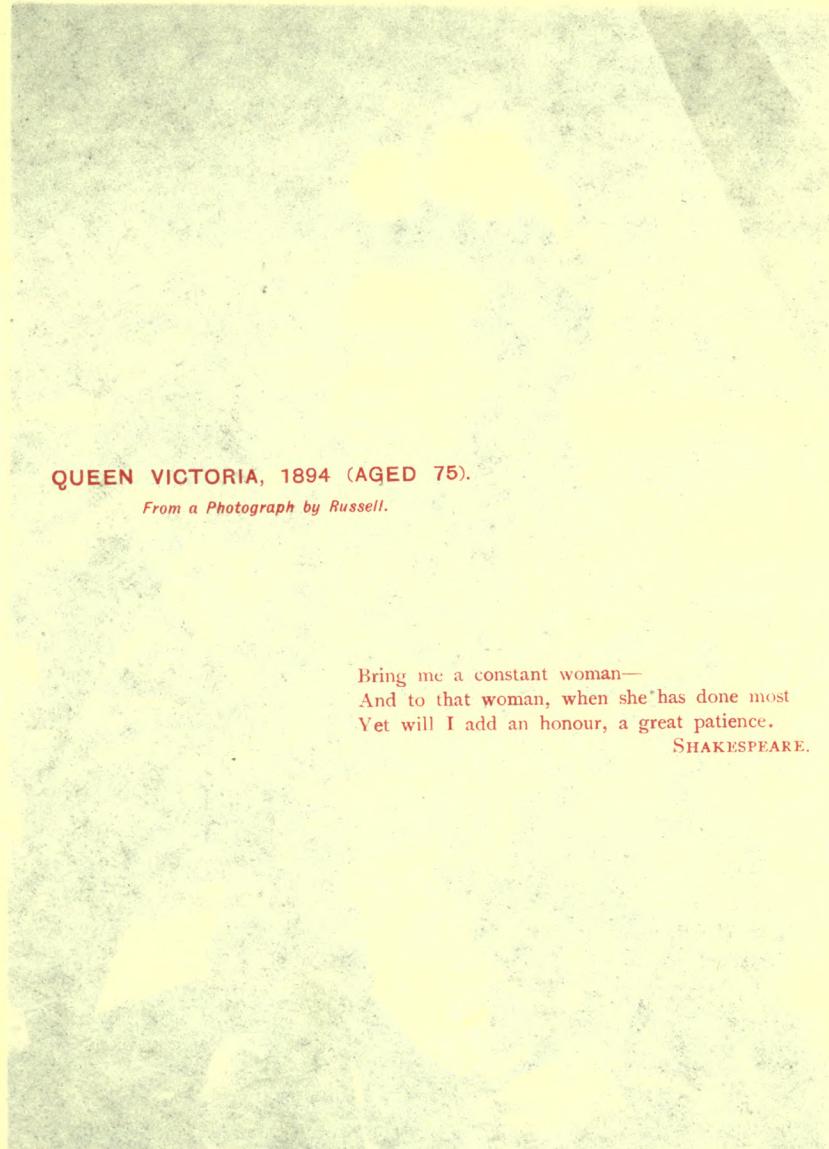
public ceremonies or inaugurated institutions of public usefulness. A few trips to the Continent, in which the Queen was always accompanied by her youngest daughter, the Princess Beatrice, brought a little variety into the home-life, and aided much in keeping up the good health which the Queen enjoyed almost uninterruptedly.

When Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury returned from Berlin, a member of the Cabinet was asked whether Parliament would not now be dissolved. "It would be a political crime to dissolve at this moment," he answered, meaning that the Government was so sure of a majority that it would be taking an unfair advantage of its opponents. It is indeed probable that a strong Ministerialist majority would have been returned in 1878; in 1880 the glamour of the British successes had worn off, and Mr. Gladstone was rekindling the public ardour for Reform by his Mid-Lothian speeches. Nevertheless, the Liberal victory of 1880 was not entirely won by Mr. Gladstone. The majority of Liberal candidates went to the poll acknowledging as their leader Lord Hartington, whose tact and judgment during his five years' chieftainship on the front Opposition bench had won golden opinions from everybody. However, when the Conservative defeat was turned into a rout, it was clear that Mr. Gladstone's claims to the Premiership could not be contested, and Lord Hartington, with his usual public spirit, gave way. In the following year Lord Beaconsfield died, after a few days' illness. It was not the least sign of his greatness that he had borne his unexpected defeat with philosophical serenity.

IRELAND AND EGYPT



ITH the return of Mr. Gladstone to power in April, 1880, the government of the country entered upon a new and, upon the whole, unfortunate period, which cannot be said to have definitely closed until the final retirement of that statesman from public life in the beginning of 1894. The Liberal party was as yet professedly homogeneous, and men as different as Lord Kimberley and Lord Northbrook, Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Goschen, Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. W. E. Forster, the Duke of Argyll and Mr. Bright found it possible to sit in the same Cabinet under Mr. Gladstone. The election had turned mainly upon the question of Lord Beaconsfield's foreign policy, and the acts of the new Government were directed in part by this consideration, and in part by the presence in the House of Commons of a compact body of Irish Independent voters under an irreconcilable leader. The five years during which Mr. Gladstone held office were years of unhappy and inconsistent experiments in Ireland and abroad. Mr. Forster, the new Chief Secretary, had to work against strong and scarcely veiled opposition within the Cabinet, several of the Radical members objecting to his methods of combating the new and formidable Land League; and after two years of struggle, during which many of the Irish leaders, including Mr. Parnell himself, had been imprisoned with the emphatically expressed consent of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Forster resigned, finding it impossible to struggle any longer against his Radical colleagues. The disastrous murder of his successor, Lord Frederick Cavendish, and of Mr. Burke, the Under-Secretary, by a gang of "Invincibles," followed very quickly; nor did the state of Ireland show any sign of permanent improvement till after the definitive change of Government in 1886. Abroad, the



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1894 (AGED 75).

From a Photograph by Russell.

Bring me a constant woman—
And to that woman, when she has done most
Yet will I add an honour, a great patience.

SHAKESPEARE.



Walter J. Colls, Ph. Sc.

years of Mr. Gladstone's rule were marked by the withdrawal from Kandahar and, under most galling circumstances, from the Transvaal, where a force of a few British regiments had suffered an unrepaid defeat; by the bombardment of the forts of Alexandria, the victory of Tel-el-Kebir, and the occupation of Egypt; by the subsequent fighting in the Sudan, during which the city of Khartum and the life of General Gordon were sacrificed in consequence of a policy which had hesitated too long; and by the rapid advance of Russia in Central Asia, till it culminated in the alarming "Penjdeh incident," which cost this country eleven millions of money, voted in anticipation of a possible war.

Meantime the Government introduced a Bill for assimilating the county suffrage with that of the towns, and this, after it had been thrown out by the Lords, was finally passed by agreement between the two great parties, in conjunction with a Redistribution of Seats Bill, which practically broke up the country into equal electoral districts such as had for fifty years been demanded by the extreme Radical party. The passing of this Bill made a new election necessary, and this took place in the autumn of 1885, at a time when Lord Salisbury and the Conservatives were in office for a few months, after defeating Mr. Gladstone's Government on the Beer Tax. Mr. Gladstone issued a very voluminous "Authorized Programme," which was supplemented and in a measure opposed by the "unauthorized programme" put forward in different speeches by the most advanced members of the Cabinet, Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke. The most noteworthy point of the election was the appeal which Mr. Gladstone addressed to the party to return him to power by a majority sufficiently large to cope with a combination between the Conservatives and Mr. Parnell's Irish Nationalists. To this appeal the country did not respond quite cordially enough; Mr. Gladstone found that the Liberals, though with a large majority over the Conservatives, would scarcely be able to fight the dreaded alliance; and this state of things he met with a turning movement of the most unforeseen and startling kind. A few weeks after the election a Northern newspaper gave publicity to the statement that the Prime Minister had gone over to Home Rule, and this statement, though Mr. Gladstone fenced with it in his characteristic manner, was very soon proved to be true. The result was a break up of the party. Mr. Bright, Lord Hartington, Mr. Goschen, and other leading Liberals found themselves unable to accept Mr. Gladstone's new conditions, and declined to join the

Cabinet which he formed after defeating Lord Salisbury on an amendment to the Address in January, 1886, and their example was followed by a large number of the most prominent, the most respectable, and the most honest members of the Liberal party. At a great meeting held in Her Majesty's Theatre the country saw, for the first time for nearly a century, the leaders of the Conservatives supported on the same platform by many of their leading opponents of yesterday. Lord Salisbury, backed by Lord Cowper, Lord Hartington, Mr. Goschen, and many others, met to form a Unionist party pledged to maintain the integrity of the Empire. Mr. Gladstone, who had appointed as Irish Secretary Mr. John Morley, almost the only prominent English Liberal who had previously been known to be a Home Ruler, drew up an elaborate Home Rule Bill, which was accepted, though somewhat grudgingly, by Mr. Parnell. Mr. Chamberlain and others thereupon left his Government, and for many weeks the House and the country rang with the heated controversy. After a long and remarkable debate the Bill was thrown out on the second reading by a majority of thirty, and the appeal to the country which immediately followed endorsed this verdict of the House of Commons in the most decisive way. The Unionists, as the new combined party was henceforth called, came back with a majority of a hundred; Lord Salisbury took office, and after Sir Michael Hicks Beach had for a short time held the office of Chief Secretary, that post devolved upon Mr. Arthur Balfour, who in his tenure of it first showed the country the remarkable qualities, as a statesman and administrator, with which he was endowed. The Liberal Unionists, or as Mr. Gladstone called them "the dissentient Liberals," declined Lord Salisbury's offer to form a Coalition Government under Lord Hartington, but gave throughout the duration of Parliament a hearty support to Lord Salisbury's policy; a strong Crimes Act was passed in the Session of 1887, in the face of the most persistent and recklessly obstructive opposition, and for some years Ireland was strongly governed and at peace.

THE FIRST JUBILEE



HERE is no doubt that the Queen felt great personal reluctance to sanction the Home Rule policy; but we have as yet no evidence of her personal action during the crisis. In the year, however, of the Crimes Act, 1887, an event took place which was of more intimate personal concern to the Queen, and of more attractive import to the country and the Empire at large. June 20 was the fiftieth anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the Throne, and, on the following day, for the second time in English history, a great Jubilee celebration was held to commemorate so happy an event. Relieved from the danger of a break-up of the United Kingdom, favoured by a summer of the most exceptional brilliancy and beauty, encouraged by the state of general peace which prevailed over the world, the country threw itself into the celebration with unchecked enthusiasm; large sums of money were everywhere subscribed; in every city, town, and village something was done both in the way of rejoicing and in the way of establishing some permanent memorial of the event. In London the day itself was kept by a solemn service in Westminster Abbey, to which the Queen went in State, surrounded by the most brilliant Royal and Princely escort that had ever accompanied a British Sovereign, and cheered on her way by the applause of hundreds of thousands of her subjects. Around her carriage rode her sons and sons-in-law, and some of her grandsons, conspicuous among them being the noble figure of the ill-fated Crown Prince, afterwards the Emperor Frederick, with his son, the present German Emperor. Waiting to receive her Majesty in the Abbey were the Ambassadors and Ministers of all nations, the peers and the peeresses, the Members of the House of Commons, the Judges, the most distinguished officers of both services, and a multitude of all that is eminent in every branch of the national

life, while grouped together and gazed upon by every eye stood a representative body of the Indian Princes. In one of those touching letters to the nation which she wrote so naturally and so well, the Queen three days afterwards addressed the Home Secretary:—

WINDSOR CASTLE, *June 24.*

I am anxious to express to my people my warm thanks for the kind, and more than kind, reception I met with on going to, and returning from, Westminster Abbey, with all my children and grandchildren.

The enthusiastic reception I met with then, as well as on all these eventful days, in London as well as in Windsor, on the occasion of my Jubilee, has touched me most deeply. It has shown that the labour and anxiety of 50 long years, 22 of which I spent in unclouded happiness shared and cheered by my beloved husband, while an equal number were full of sorrows and trials, borne without his sheltering arm and wise help, have been appreciated by my people.

This feeling and the sense of duty towards my dear country and subjects, who are so inseparably bound up with my life, will encourage me in my task, often a very difficult and arduous one, during the remainder of my life.

The wonderful order preserved on this occasion and the good behaviour of the enormous multitudes assembled merits my highest admiration.

That God may protect and abundantly bless my country is my fervent prayer.

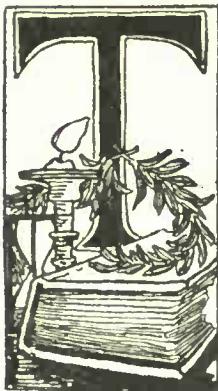
VICTORIA, R. & I.

The public ceremonials connected with the Jubilee were not, of course, confined to the Thanksgiving Service, nor did her Majesty limit her personal exertions to this one public appearance and to the entertainment of her Royal guests at Buckingham Palace and Windsor. The Queen had already paid a memorable visit to the East-end when she opened the People's Palace on May 14. On July 2 she reviewed at Buckingham Palace some 23,000 Volunteers of London and the home counties. On July 4 she laid the foundation stone of the Imperial Institute, the building at Kensington to which, at the instance of the Prince of Wales, it had been determined to devote the large sum of money collected as a Jubilee offering, and which was completed in a few years from this time. On July 9, her Majesty reviewed 58,000 men at Aldershot; and, last and chief of all, on July 23, one of the most brilliant days of that brilliant summer, she reviewed the Fleet at Spithead. Once or twice since then a more formidable body of British ships has been gathered together, but never in the history of the world had there been, up to that time, so splendid a marine spectacle. Altogether 135 vessels of war were gathered together, including 26 armoured and 9 unarmoured ships, 38 first-class torpedo-boats, the same number of gunboats, and 12 troopships, while outside

the lines were moored innumerable merchant steamers, yachts, and other vessels of all sorts and sizes, thronged with proud and cheering spectators. It seemed as though, under the smiles of Heaven, the visible signs and symbols of the defensive might of England, under the Queen, whose long reign had done so much to increase and confirm it, were brought together as a spectacle for the world.

After the excitement of these Jubilee celebrations, it was only to be expected that the rest of the year should pass without many events of moment that directly touched the Court. As though, however, to show that public harmony is seldom without its jarring note, the peace was not kept in Ireland without a severe employment of the new powers given by the Crimes Act. The most serious of the disorders was a riot at Mitchelstown, in the course of which the police fired upon the mob and killed three rioters, and shortly afterwards the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. Sullivan, was sent to prison for publishing in his newspaper the report of meetings suppressed by the Government. In London, thanks to the contagion of anarchy, the guardians of the public order had to assert themselves with some vigour on account of the riotous assemblages which took place during the autumn months. But whereas in any Continental capital such disorder as was attempted in Trafalgar Square would have been put down with serious bloodshed, in England the rioting led to nothing more serious than a few broken heads and the imprisonment of one or two prominent agitators, including Mr. John Burns and a member of Parliament, Mr. Cunningham Graham. Abroad the great event of the year was the signature at the end of February of the Agreement renewing for five years the Triple Alliance, by which Germany, Austria and Italy bound themselves to act defensively together in case the territories of either were attacked. This Agreement, which is still in existence, having survived every danger from without and from within, has been a true "league of peace" for Europe, though its natural result has been to draw together the two great Powers of West and East, France and Russia.

DEATH OF THE GERMAN EMPERORS WILLIAM AND FREDERICK



HE year that followed (1888) witnessed two events which greatly affected European history, and in a minor, though still marked, degree the life of our own Court. On March 9, the Emperor William I. died at Berlin, and thus the great triumvirate—the Emperor, Bismarck, and Moltke—which had realised the unity of Germany, was broken up. He was succeeded by his son, the Emperor Frederick III., known to all the world as the Crown Prince Fritz, and regarded with special affection in England as the husband of our own Princess Royal. But at the time he was suffering from a malignant disease of the throat, and when he returned from San Remo to Berlin to take in his hands the reins of government he was practically a dying man. The ninety-nine days of his reign were marked on the one side by the issue of a remarkable proclamation, giving hopes to Germany of a more liberal and modern *régime* than she had yet known; and, on the other, by the unfortunate quarrels of the doctors, one of them an English specialist, who were called in in the vain hope of saving his life. He died on June 15, and was quietly buried in the Friedenskirche at Potsdam, and thus prematurely ended a life which, had it been prolonged, might have been of incalculable service to Germany and to the world. "It seems," said Lord Salisbury a few days afterwards in the House of Lords, "as though there was accumulated upon his head every possible qualification for a life of glorious, splendid, and peaceful usefulness. Great experience, true aptitude and courage in war, high reputation for culture and for knowledge in the arts of

peace, a deep and well-understood sympathy for all the highest and best aspirations of his people, the support of a consort never surpassed in her ability and constant enthusiasm for right—all these things seemed to fit him for a career of power and splendid capacity for good." In similar language Mr. Gladstone described him to the House of Commons, speaking of the Emperor's character and achievements as "a great and noble inheritance for the German people." The Emperor Frederick was succeeded by his eldest son, the present Emperor William II., the grandson of the Queen.

Meantime Queen Victoria had made the foreign journey which has of late years been her annual practice. She spent some weeks at Florence at the Villa Palmieri, and returned home by Darmstadt and Berlin. In spite of the illness of the Emperor Frederick, a certain amount of Court festivities were held in her Majesty's honour, and she had long conversations with Prince Bismarck, who was deeply impressed by her Majesty's personality. Just before, the Prince, who was still Chancellor, had taken up a very strong line with regard to a Royal marriage in which the Queen was deeply interested—the proposal that Prince Alexander of Battenberg, lately Ruler of Bulgaria and brother of the Queen's son-in-law, Prince Henry, should marry Princess Victoria, the eldest daughter of the Emperor Frederick. Prince Bismarck, who had been anti-Battenberg from the beginning, vehemently opposed this marriage, on the ground that it would never do for a daughter of the German Emperor to marry a Prince who was personally disliked by the Tsar; for, in spite of the Triple Alliance, Prince Bismarck was always in favour of cultivating good relations with Russia. This affair caused no little agitation in Royal circles, but in the end State reasons were allowed to prevail and the Chancellor had his way. At home the year 1888 was chiefly marked by the passage of Mr. Ritchie's Local Government Bill, for the establishment of county councils, and by the appointment and meeting of the Parnell Commission. The first sitting was held on October 22, and during the long months that followed Ireland was quiet.

The Queen had borne so well the fatigue of the Jubilee that during the succeeding years she was encouraged to make somewhat more frequent appearances among her subjects. In May, 1888, she attended a performance of Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Golden Legend" at the Albert Hall, and in August she visited Glasgow to open the magnificent new municipal buildings, remaining for a couple of nights at Blythswood, the seat of Sir Archibald Campbell. Early in 1889

she received at Windsor a special embassy, which, though it attracted comparatively little attention at the time, was the beginning of a memorable chapter of English history; two Matabele chiefs were sent by King Lobengula to present his respects to the great White Queen, as to whose very existence, it was said, he had up till that time been sceptical. Soon afterwards her Majesty went to Biarritz, and the occasion was made memorable by a visit which she paid to the Queen-Regent of Spain at San Sebastian, the only visit that an English reigning Sovereign has ever paid to the Peninsula. On her return home the Queen paid a visit to Sandringham, where Mr. Irving and the Lyceum Company performed before her; several Jubilee statues were unveiled during this summer by the Prince of Wales; her Majesty, for the first time for very many years, went to see the procession of boats at Eton on the Fourth of June, and herself distributed the medals at the Royal Agricultural Show which was held shortly afterwards in Windsor Park. In August she received the visit of her grandson, the new German Emperor, who came, accompanied by his fleet, to the Solent. It was on this occasion that her Majesty appointed William II. an Admiral of the Fleet, and in return was made by her grandson honorary colonel of the 1st Dragoon Guards, which were thenceforward to be known as the "Queen of England's Own." A little later her Majesty paid a visit to Wales, occupying Palé-hall, near Bala, for about a week, and greatly enjoying long drives throughout that beautiful region.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES'S CHILDREN

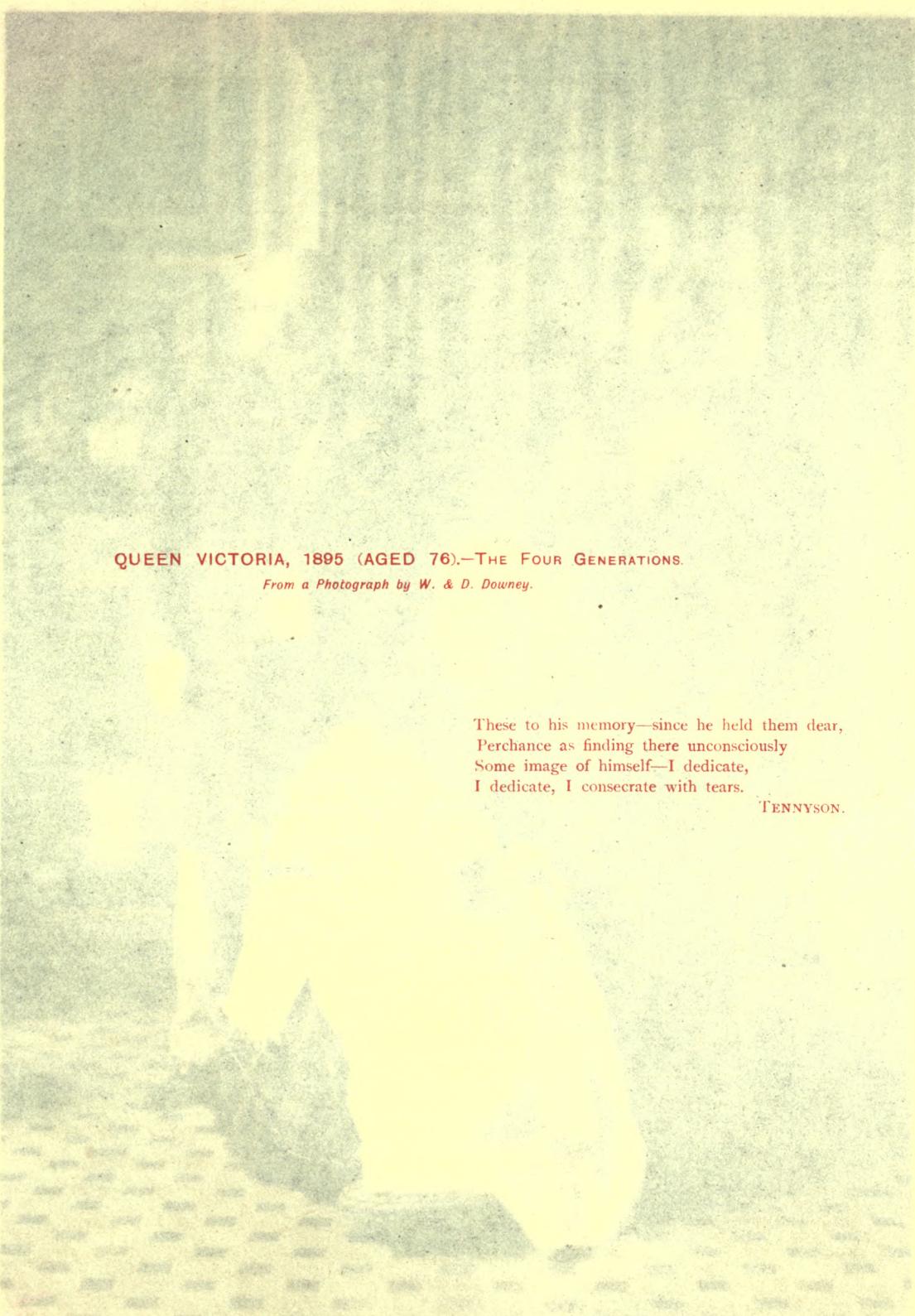


UT before this the relations between the Court and the country had again formed matter for a somewhat sharp discussion in Parliament and in the Press. A proposed increase of the Royal grant always excites Radical opinion to a degree quite out of proportion to the sum involved. There is something concrete about money paid to an individual; it is easily handled by the party orator, and the facile contrast between an ornamental Court and the struggles of the workman, between the large incomes of the rich and the small incomes of the poor, is always sure to arouse a thoughtless cheer in a Radical audience. The leaders of both

sides are well aware of this, and consequently any arrangement which secures, at all events, a provisional finality in the matter is to be welcomed. Such a settlement was the unforeseen consequence of a Royal message brought up by Mr. W. H. Smith on July 2, expressing, on the one hand, the Queen's desire to provide for Prince Albert Victor, and, on the other, informing the House of the intended marriage of the Prince of Wales's daughter, the Princess Louise, to the Earl of Fife. On the proposal of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, a Select Committee was appointed to consider these messages and to report to the House as to the existing practice and as to the principles to be adopted for the future. The evidence laid before the committee explained to the country for the first time the actual state of the Royal income, and on the proposal of Mr. Gladstone, amending the proposal of the Government, it was proposed to grant a fixed addition of £36,000 per annum to the Prince of Wales, out of which he should be expected to provide for his children without further application to the country. The interesting point in this affair was the divergence

of opinion manifested between Mr. Gladstone and some of his followers. The ex-Premier, with an experience of nearly sixty years of public life, came forward as a strong advocate for granting an ample, though not extravagant, allowance to the Royal Family, whereas not only Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Labouchere, but even Mr. Morley, who moved an amendment to Mr. Smith's resolution for payment of the proposed sum, took a distinctly opposite side. The amendment was rejected by 355 to 134, and effect was given to it in a Bill called "The Prince of Wales's Children Bill," which was carried in spite of the persistent opposition of a small group of Radical members.

In the spring of 1890 the Queen visited Aix-les-Bains in the hope that the waters of that health resort might alleviate the rheumatism from which she was now frequently suffering. She returned as usual by way of Darmstadt, and shortly after her arrival at Windsor paid a visit to Baron Ferdinand Rothschild at his magnificent house, Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury—the first occasion for many years on which similar honour had been paid to a subject. In July the Queen opened the new "Empress Dock" at Southampton, but beyond this no public incidents directly affecting her remain to be recorded. It was a dull year in Parliament, but before the year closed an incident took place which affected English politics as profoundly as the dismissal of Prince Bismarck, which occurred in the spring, affected those of Germany. The Parnell Commission had reported in due course, after an investigation which lasted many months, and in their report the Judges declared, among other matters of the same kind, that "the respondents did incite to intimidation, and that the consequence of that incitement was that crime and outrage were committed by the persons incited," and that "the respondents invited and obtained the assistance and co-operation of the physical force party in America." These findings were regarded by the Home Rule party in England and Ireland as a practical whitewashing of Mr. Parnell. What the public acts of the Irish leader failed to bring about was achieved by his private misconduct. He was made the co-respondent in a divorce case, failed to clear himself, and in November, 1890, was consequently thrown over by Mr. Gladstone, who wrote to Mr. Morley declaring that it was impossible for him to work with Mr. Parnell any longer. The consequent break-up of the Irish party after the proceedings known as those "in Committee Room 15" was complete, and it was ten years before the breach between Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites was healed.



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1895 (AGED 76).—THE FOUR GENERATIONS.

From a Photograph by W. & D. Downey.

These to his memory—since he held them dear,
Perchance as finding there unconsciously
Some image of himself—I dedicate,
I dedicate, I consecrate with tears.

TENNYSON.



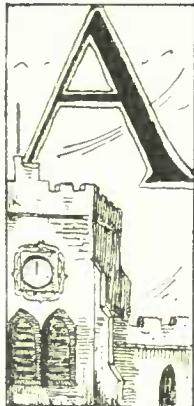
W. & D. Downey.

Walter L. C. Alls, Ph. Sc.

Ebury St. L.W.

The following year was one of great personal activity on the part of the Queen. In February she launched the battleship *Royal Sovereign* at Portsmouth; a week later she visited the horse show at Islington. Her annual spring visit to the South was this year paid to the little town of Grasse, which lies a few miles inland, to the left of the railway between Toulon and Cannes. Returning much benefited, the Queen, for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort, commanded a dramatic performance at Windsor Castle, and "The Gondoliers" was played in the Waterloo Gallery, the first of many similar performances at Windsor and Balmoral which have since that time given pleasure to the Court and the neighbours. A short time afterwards her Majesty paid a State visit to Derby, and opened a new hospital there, and in the summer was present at the wedding, in the Guards' Chapel, of Miss Ponsonby, the daughter of her greatly-valued Secretary. About this time there took place the first overt act which seemed to announce a special understanding between Russia and France, in the visit paid by the French fleet to Kronstadt; and when, soon afterwards, Admiral Gervais brought his squadron to Portsmouth it was thought expedient that her Majesty should review the French ships in person. If France and Russia drew together during this year, not less marked was the dangerous irritation that arose between France and Germany early in the spring, the occasion being one which personally affected the Queen. The Empress Frederick thought that the time had arrived when it might be possible for her to visit the French capital, her immediate object being to secure the co-operation of the French artists in the forthcoming International Exhibition at Berlin. Unfortunately, certain Chauvinists took offence, especially at the Empress's visit to Versailles; a section of the Press adopted a menacing tone; popular demonstrations were feared; and the Empress left Paris sooner than she had intended. Very naturally this incident caused profound irritation across the Rhine, where any want of courtesy to a personage so near the Sovereign is, of course, regarded as an attack upon the nation itself. The matter, however, had no immediate consequence, though it threw an unpleasant light upon the abiding nature of French animosity.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE



T the beginning of 1892 a heavy blow fell upon the Queen, the Royal Family, and the country, in the death of Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence Avondale. The eldest son of the Prince and Princess of Wales had never been of a robust constitution, and when he was attacked by the influenza, at that time so prevalent, he made little resistance, pneumonia supervened, and after a little more than a week's illness he died at Sandringham. On the public effects and aspects of this sad occurrence we need not dwell; it is enough to quote the supremely touching letter in which the Queen, addressing her people through the Home Secretary, expressed the feelings of profound sorrow which the loss of the young and amiable Prince had caused to her. Only a short time before it had been announced that the Prince was about to marry his second cousin, Princess May, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck; and this news had been received with sincere pleasure by the whole country. Naturally the pathos of the Prince's loss was increased by the thought of the ruin of this new hope, so that in every sense the Queen's sad words found an echo in the heart of her subjects. The following is the letter:—

OSBORNE, *January 26, 1892.*

I must once again give expression to my deep sense of the loyalty and affectionate sympathy evinced by my subjects in every part of my Empire on an occasion more sad and tragical than any but one which has befallen me and mine, as well as the nation. The overwhelming misfortune of my dearly-loved grandson having been thus suddenly cut off in the flower of his age, full of promise for the future, amiable and gentle, and endearing himself to all, renders it hard for his sorely-stricken parents, his dear young bride, and his fond grandmother to bow in submission to the inscrutable decrees of Providence.

The sympathy of millions, which has been so touchingly and visibly expressed, is deeply gratifying at such a time, and I wish, both in my own name and that of my children, to express, from my heart, my warm gratitude to all.

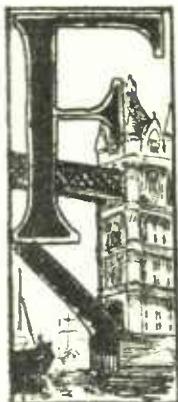
These testimonies of sympathy with us, and appreciation of my dear grandson, whom I loved as a son, and whose devotion to me was as great as that of a son, will be a help and consolation to me and mine in our affliction.

My bereavements during the last thirty years of my reign have indeed been heavy. Though the labours, anxieties, and responsibilities inseparable from my position have been great, yet it is my earnest prayer that God may continue to give me health and strength to work for the good and happiness of my dear country and Empire while life lasts.

VICTORIA, R.I.

The death of the young Prince threw a gloom over the country and caused the Royal Family to spend the year in such retirement as was possible; there is therefore little to record of any public action on the part of the Queen. Her Majesty had, as we have said, already begun to pay those annual visits to a warmer clime which of late years have done so much to keep her in health; this year it was Costebelle, a suburb of Hyères, in the south of France, that was her choice. In this sunny region, one of the most peaceful of the health resorts of the Riviera, her Majesty passed some quiet weeks, and returned refreshed to take up once more that life of unobtrusive work which, though the public knows so little of it, has been her portion from the beginning.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LAST RETURN TO POWER



ROM the public point of view almost the only interesting political event of 1892 was the General Election which took place very soon after the prorogation of Parliament on June 27; and once more the country rang with speeches for and against Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone, at the age of eighty-two, was still leader of a party formidable in spite of the defection of many of its strongest and wisest men. With a degree of passion rarely felt by any political chief, and never perhaps by any other who attained so great an age, he flung himself into the contest resolved at any cost to secure, before he died, the triumph of this last and dearest of his "causes." Curiously enough his election address contained nothing explicit with regard to the Home Rule programme; what he asked for was practically *carte blanche* to settle the Irish question in his own way. The rest of his party dwelt most on a long and miscellaneous list of projected reforms, known as the Newcastle programme. Lord Salisbury, on the other hand, marked his sense of the gravity of the situation by personally descending into the arena. It is the custom or perhaps the law of the constitution that a peer shall not go about making speeches at election time; but nothing prevents him from issuing an address "to the electors of the United Kingdom," and this course Lord Salisbury adopted on the day before the prorogation. "There is one interest," he wrote, "to which this election is above all others vital. It is the interest of a large portion of the Irish people who are threatened in effect with separation from Great Britain. To them this election is of terrible importance. On your votes during the next two or three weeks will depend whether it will be to them a

message of hope or a sentence of servitude and ruin." The electors listened to Mr. Gladstone, though not as readily as he had wished ; and the Liberals came back to Parliament with a majority of forty, including, of course, the Irish Nationalists, whose total numbers were a little reduced in strength. When Parliament met in August, a formal vote of want of confidence was moved by Mr. Asquith and was carried by a majority of forty. The Government resigned, and Mr. Gladstone for the fourth time became Prime Minister with Mr. Morley as Secretary for Ireland and Lord Rosebery Foreign Secretary —the last being a fortunate appointment, which kept the foreign affairs of the country steady and safe while the Foreign Secretary's colleagues were doing their best to break up the Empire from within.

The autumn was uneventful, nor was public opinion in any way excited, most people retaining at the back of their minds a sense that the "resources of civilization" would be adequate to deal with the Home Rule agitation, though the magic of Mr. Gladstone's name might have led a small majority of the electorate to give him for the moment another chance. Early in the following year the second Home Rule Bill was produced, and meantime the country, on the expiration of the Royal mourning, began to take a more than usual interest in the affairs of the Royal Family. On February 19 the Queen left home for a first visit to Florence, and spent many delightful weeks—the epithet is known to express her own personal feelings—in the Villa Palmieri. She was able to display remarkable energy in visiting the sights of this famous city, and even went as far afield as San Gimignano, and her visit had a notable effect in strengthening the bonds of friendship between this country and the Italian people. On April 28 her Majesty arrived at home, and a few days later the country learned with deep interest, though with no surprise, that the Duke of York, who by his brother's death had been left direct heir to the Throne, was betrothed to the Princess May. The marriage was celebrated on July 6 in the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace, in the presence of a number of Royal and distinguished guests, among whom was the Prince's first cousin the Cesarevitch, now the Emperor Nicholas II., and amid the applause of countless thousands of people who lined the route along Constitution Hill, Piccadilly, St. James's Street and away through Pall Mall to the City station, the bridal pair presently took their departure to Sandringham. It is scarcely fanciful to say that the public happiness in this marriage was increased by the extraordinary beauty of the summer of 1893, the loveliest within living memory ; a

summer so warm and so long that for the moment it almost succeeded in changing the habits of a whole nation and in making Englishmen "in populous cities pent" adopt the out-of-door life of Continental capitals.

The second Home Rule Bill was duly produced just before the Easter recess, and when Parliament met on April 6 Mr. Gladstone moved the second reading. It is unnecessary to follow the course of the discussion, but we may note that a great effect was produced by the demonstration of Irish Unionists and their friends, which filled the Albert Hall on April 22, once more endeavouring to bring home to the people of England what the majority of them did not in the least understand—the intense determination of Ulster not to submit to Mr. Gladstone's proposed new constitution. But the Bill of course went through the Commons, the second reading was carried by a majority of forty-three. The committee stages were not passed until recourse had been had to drastic measures of closure. Not till the beginning of September did the Bill reach the House of Lords, but when it arrived there its fate was sharply and decisively declared. After a four nights' debate, during which Lord Rosebery, the best orator of the Opposition, declared himself to be "not an enthusiastic witness in favour of the Bill," the second reading was rejected by 419 votes to 41—a majority of rather more than ten to one. Then followed a curious phenomenon. The professional organizers of the Home Rule party in England went about breathing threatenings and slaughter against the hereditary House; Mr. Morley's phrase of "ending or mending" was quoted in their official documents; and the country, Liberal as well as Conservative, sat perfectly still. The truth is that a large number of Mr. Gladstone's followers in the House of Commons and in the caucuses throughout the country were in their secret heart delighted that the Lords had had the courage to relieve them, the Liberal politicians, from an impossible position. Nothing followed; Parliament met again in the autumn to pass two important English Bills, dealing with Employers' Liability and Parish Councils, but we heard little more of Home Rule.

Outside the realm of politics a disaster which deeply affected the Queen as well as the whole country was the loss of the noble battleship which bore her name, the *Victoria*, which occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean on June 22, in consequence of a collision with the *Camperdown*. This terrible event which cost the life of Admiral Sir George Tryon, some thirty officers, and about 320 men, was found

by the Court-martial to have been due to an ill-judged order of the Admiral, a most distinguished officer who paid with his life for this one fatal mistake. Her Majesty's sincere grief at the tragic occurrence was expressed in a manner even more than usually striking. Another matter which affected not only her Majesty's officers but also herself and the Royal Family was the appointment of the Duke of Connaught to the Aldershot command, and the subsequent discussion (September 11) in the House of Commons. A certain jealousy had been roused in the minds of Radicals and others, not so much on account of the bestowal of this command, which was well within the capacity of a Prince who had shown himself in the field and at home to be an able officer, but by the fear lest Aldershot should be a mere preparation, and lest, on the retirement of the Duke of Cambridge, Court influence should cause the Duke of Connaught to be appointed his successor. The discussion seemed to have no immediate result, but it showed that the appointment of a Royal Prince to the supreme command of the army would not be popular. Of other events of the year the only one of importance in which her Majesty was immediately concerned was the state opening of the Imperial Institute. This building, of which the foundation-stone had been laid soon after the Jubilee of 1887, was now finished, and was opened by the Queen on May 10, in the presence of great crowds of people, animated by a vague hope that this great building, the meaning of which they did not quite understand, would perform some worthy Imperial work, a hope which has not as yet been fulfilled. We should perhaps have mentioned earlier that during the preceding winter her Majesty issued a proclamation announcing the issue of a new coinage designed by Mr. Brock, R.A., and the present President of the Royal Academy; these very satisfactory moulds replaced with much success the Jubilee issue, one of the few failures of the late Sir Edgar Boehm.

Early in the year 1894, in the midst of a Session which by a curious departure from precedent had been summoned in the preceding September, and had met again after a brief Christmas adjournment, a rumour was spread abroad, and was presently confirmed, that Mr. Gladstone was about to retire. On March 1 he made, without any parade of valediction, what proved to be his last speech in the House of Commons. It was a brief speech not uninfluenced by resentment at the event of the previous September and directed against the conduct of the House of Lords with regard to the Government Bill on Employers' Liability. This proved to be the veteran's last appearance

in the House, of which he had been for more than sixty years a member and an ornament. The public soon learned that Mr. Gladstone was suffering from cataract, and that at his great age the hope of a completely successful cure was comparatively small. It may be mentioned, however, that the necessary operation was performed successfully, and that for the remaining years of his life Mr. Gladstone could read with proper glasses. After very short delay and many underground disputes, and no little intrigue on the part of contending claimants for the succession, her Majesty solved the question by sending for Lord Rosebery, who undertook what proved to be the thankless task of forming a Government.

Very shortly afterwards the Queen left England for Florence, where she stayed for some weeks enjoying delightful weather; and on her return, five weeks later, she stopped at Coburg to witness the marriage between two of her grandchildren, the Grand Duke of Hesse and the Princess Victoria Melita of Coburg. On the next day the Emperor William officially announced to her Majesty the betrothal of the Cesarevitch (the present Emperor of Russia) to the Grand Duchess Alix of Hesse; a granddaughter whom it is not impertinent to say her Majesty had always regarded with special affection, inheriting as she did so much of the character of her mother, the beloved Princess Alice. After a few weeks in London her Majesty went northwards and stopped at Manchester, where, in the presence of a vast and enthusiastic crowd, she opened that great work the Ship Canal. Two days afterwards she celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday in quiet at Balmoral. A month later an event took place of high interest to her Majesty and of importance to the whole Empire—the birth of a son to the Duke and Duchess of York, and of an heir to the Throne, the third in direct descent from the Queen. In due time the child, to the great satisfaction of the country, received the thoroughly English name of Edward. About the same time the Prince and Princess of Wales, acting on behalf of the Queen, opened the Tower Bridge, a structure which had cost more than a million sterling, and the construction of which had occupied eight years.

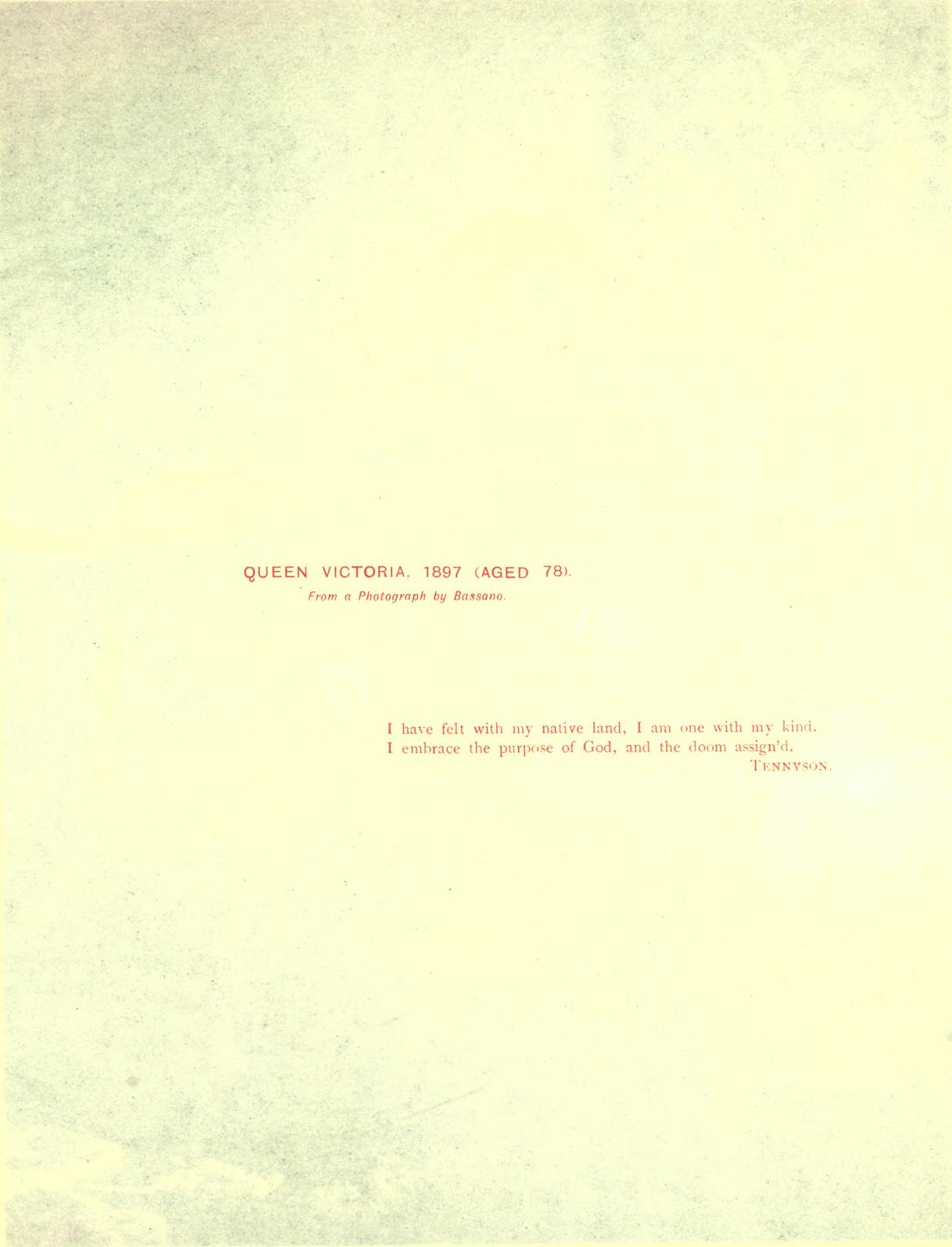
LORD SALISBURY'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION



Of other events directly concerning the Queen there were but few during 1894; nor was the important year 1895 specially memorable in her personal annals. But a Ministerial crisis, a change of Government, and a General Election are all matters which must nearly affect the Queen, if only in the sense of casting upon her fresh responsibilities and an increase of actual work. The Session of Parliament was chiefly remarkable for the abortive Bill for the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales; presently the Government was defeated on the question of the sufficiency of small arms ammunition, unexpectedly raised by Mr. Brodrick, and Lord Rosebery resigned. Lord Salisbury was at once sent for, accepted the task of forming a new Government, and, after formally winding up the Session, he dissolved Parliament. The General Election which immediately followed sent the Unionists back to power with the enormous majority of 152—enough assuredly to guarantee Lord Salisbury a long tenure of power, but not enough, it would seem, to prevent those troublesome complications in foreign affairs to which a great country is always liable, however strong, homogeneous, and pacific its Government may be. The end of the year saw that "bolt from the blue," President Cleveland's warlike message to Congress about the Venezuelan boundary, a message which was received in England with a feeling not so much of irritation as of bewilderment and unmitigated wonder. Everybody felt that it was to reduce international politics to the level of farcical comedy to propose to go to war on a question of which not one citizen out of a hundred in either country had ever heard, and

about which not one in ten thousand cared the value of a day's wage. The matter blew over, but not before it had caused great anxiety and infinite labour to the Government and, of course, to the Queen. In this year her Majesty experienced a loss which touched her very nearly in the death of General Sir Henry Ponsonby, G.C.B., her faithful and most efficient private secretary, who for many years had helped her in the management of her most private affairs, and had acted as an intermediary between her and her Ministers with singular ability and success. None but the Queen and those immediately around her could appreciate what she lost in this distinguished man. A fitting successor was found in Sir Arthur Bigge.

The following year, 1896, which was the year of the Jameson raid and of many other events nearly concerning the interests of the Empire, was marked by a loss which touched the Queen even more nearly and more personally. For some time difficulties had been growing up between England and the King of Ashanti, and in the winter of 1895-96 a small expedition was sent against that potentate. At his urgent request Prince Henry of Battenberg, the Queen's son-in-law, who belonged to a fighting family, and who had a natural desire to see some form of life a little more adventurous than what can be afforded by the luxurious monotony of a Court, was permitted to join the expedition as an auxiliary. There was no fighting, but the force had to contend with a worse enemy than the Ashanti—the heat and dampness of the enervating West African climate. Early in January the Prince was struck down with fever. He was brought to the coast and put on board her Majesty's ship *Blonde*, where, on the 20th, he died. The news came as a terrible shock to the Queen and to the Princess Beatrice; and, writing to the Home Secretary a few weeks later, her Majesty expressed her sense of loss in terms of touching sincerity. "This new sorrow," she wrote, "is overwhelming, and to me is a double one, for I lose a dearly-loved and helpful son, whose presence was like bright sunshine in my home, and my dear daughter loses a noble, devoted husband, to whom she was united by the closest affection."



QUEEN VICTORIA, 1897 (AGED 78).

From a Photograph by Bassano.

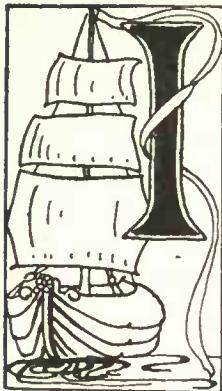
I have felt with my native land, I am one with my kind,
I embrace the purpose of God, and the doom assign'd.

TENNYSON.



Walter L. Collier, Ph. L.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE



IN September, 1896, her Majesty's reign had reached a point at which it exceeded in length that of any other English Sovereign ; but by her special request all public celebrations of the fact were deferred until the following June, which marked the completion of sixty years from her accession. As the time drew on, it was obvious that the celebrations of this Diamond Jubilee, as it was popularly called, would exceed in magnificence those of the Jubilee of 1887. That this was so was to a great extent owing to the happy inspiration of Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary for the Colonies, who induced his colleagues to seize the opportunity of making of the Jubilee not a family festival, not a domestic festival, but a festival of the British Empire. Recognizing the unquestionable fact that Imperialist sentiment had lately become a powerful factor in the national life, he saw that nothing would tend so much to foster and to fortify this sentiment as to bring together under the eyes of London and the world, palpable evidence of the extent, the resources, and the vitality of the Empire. Accordingly, the Prime Ministers of all the self-governing colonies, with their families, were invited to come to London as the guests of the country to take part in the Jubilee procession ; and at the same time drafts from the troops which preserve order in every British colony and dependency were brought home for the same purpose. At the same time, the programme of the procession itself was quite different from that of 1887. In the latter case her Majesty had driven from the Palace to Westminster Abbey, surrounded by the Princes of her family ; had there taken part in a service which was almost a repetition of the Coronation Service ; and had quickly returned home. On the present occasion her purpose, as officially announced, was "to see her people

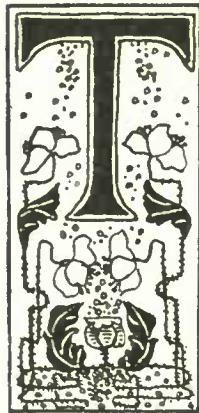
and personally to receive their congratulations"; and with this intention the route chosen was three times as long, and three times as many persons were thus enabled to offer their greetings to the Queen.

The procession was, in the strictest sense of the term, unique. As we said in reviewing the year, "The military nations of the Continent can, of course, put on the parade ground five of their own men for every one that we can put on ours; but here was a display, not of the number of Englishmen that bear arms, but of the all-embracing extent of the British Empire. For here were not only Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen, Welshmen, but Mounted Rifles from Victoria and New South Wales, from the Cape and from Natal, from 'Our Lady of the Snows.' Here were Hausas from the Niger and the Gold Coast, coloured men from the West India regiments, Zaptiehs from Cyprus, Chinamen from Hong-kong, and Dyaks—now civilized into military police—from British North Borneo. Here, most brilliant sight of all, were the Imperial Service troops, sent by the native Princes of India; while the detachments of Sikhs who marched earlier in the procession received their full meed of admiration and applause. Moved by the sight of all these, and of the Colonial Premiers who drove in the procession, it was not an English writer, but a writer for the Paris *Figaro*, who said, 'Rome is equalled, if not surpassed, by the Power which, in Canada, Australia, India, and the China Seas, in Egypt, Central and Southern Africa, in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, rules peoples and governs in their interests.'" The route taken was from Buckingham Palace, along Constitution Hill, Piccadilly, St. James's Street, Pall Mall, and the Strand to St. Paul's Cathedral, where the procession halted while a short service was held on the steps, the Queen not leaving her carriage on account of her lameness. Thence her Majesty proceeded to the Mansion House, where she received an Address, and then—the great novelty of the day—crossed London Bridge, traversed south London amid crowds as great and enthusiastic as those which thronged the West End, and returned home by way of Westminster Bridge and St. James's Park. Altogether the Queen was in her carriage for more than four hours, which, considering the amount of bowing she went through, was in itself an extraordinary physical feat for a woman of seventy-eight. Her own feelings were shown by the simple but significant message she sent to her people throughout the world: "From my heart I thank my beloved people. May God bless them." Some time later her Majesty gave a garden party at Buckingham Palace, and held numerous recep-

tions at Windsor, including that of the Colonial troops and that of the Members of the House of Commons and their wives. The illuminations in London and the great provincial towns were magnificent, and all the hills from Ben Nevis to the Southdowns were crowned with bonfires. The Queen herself held a great review at Aldershot; but a much more significant display was the review by the Prince of Wales on behalf of the Fleet at Spithead on Saturday, June 26. The Jubilee review of 1887 had been splendid; this was infinitely more so. To quote our own words at the time:—

No less than 165 vessels of all classes were drawn up in four lines, extending altogether to a length of 30 miles; opposite were arrayed representative war vessels from many foreign States, while a line of merchant steamers and scores of other steamers and yachts, crowded with guests, gave colour and at times movement to the scene. . . . This review gave to the whole world, and especially to keen-eyed foreign visitors, ocular proof that the naval power of England had immensely increased, under the steady pressure of public opinion, since the former Jubilee. People learned, with something like amazement, that the vast Fleet of modern vessels there assembled was drawn from home waters only; and that with no difficulty it had been manned with 40 thousand officers and men, only a very few of whom were drawn from the Naval Reserve. Not one single ship had been brought home from foreign stations for the review, not even from the very strong Mediterranean Squadron.

AFTER THE JUBILEE



HE two years that followed the Diamond Jubilee were, as regards the Queen, comparatively uneventful. The closing months of 1897 were occupied with the difficult and costly campaign on the North-West Frontier of India, and Sir Herbert Kitchener on the Upper Nile was quietly preparing for the inevitable final struggle with the Khalifa, which was brought to a close in the following September by the victory of Omdurman, the destruction of the Dervish army, and the occupation of the Sudan. Naturally these campaigns imposed fresh work and fresh anxiety upon the Queen, but her health remained good and her visit to Cimiez in the spring of 1898 was as enjoyable and as beneficial as before. On May 19 Mr. Gladstone died—the oldest of her servants, as he liked to call himself, but one who had never attained to the same personal influence over her as had been attained by his great rival, Lord Beaconsfield. Still, the letter addressed by the Queen to Mrs. Gladstone on the day of the funeral was one of heartfelt sympathy, and, after describing Mr. Gladstone as "one of the most distinguished statesmen of my reign," it was added, "I shall ever gratefully remember his devotion and zeal in all that concerned my personal welfare and that of my family." Abroad, many great events were happening or preparing. The United States were engaged in quickly destroying the Spanish colonial power; in the autumn came the Sudan campaign and the awkward incident of Fashoda, brought to a happy close by the firmness of the Government and the tact of the British general; while, but a week or two before, the world had been as much perplexed as pleased by the proposal of the Emperor of Russia for a conference which was to discuss the question of universal peace and a reduction of armaments. The ready acceptance

of his Majesty's invitation by our Government did not prevent Lord Salisbury from delivering, at the Guildhall banquet on November 9, what foreign critics regarded as a pessimistic and even alarmist speech, the note of which was that "the subject-matter of war is terribly prevalent on all sides." It is unnecessary to point out how true in regard to England was this forecast, for in less than a year there had begun in South Africa the war which, though the ultimate issue has never been in doubt, is still unconcluded and still imposing a severe strain upon the resources of the Empire. For some time, however, more peaceful interests were allowed their place. In May, 1899, after another strengthening visit to the Riviera, her Majesty performed what proved to be her last ceremonial function in London; she proceeded in "semi-state" to South Kensington, and laid the foundation-stone of the new buildings completing the Museum—henceforth to be called the Victoria and Albert Museum—which had been planned more than forty years before by the Prince Consort. A week later, the Queen's eightieth birthday was celebrated amid general rejoicings, though without much public display; and it was pleasant to notice that the people of the United States, as though in recognition of the friendly attitude of England during the Cuban War, were especially cordial on the occasion.

THE QUEEN'S LAST YEAR



NE public pleasure, at least, may be set against the griefs and anxieties which encompassed the Queen during the last year of her life. If the South African war proved more serious than had been anticipated—if it opened unfortunately and cost more efforts, more lives, and more money than any one had thought possible—on the other hand, it did more to weld the Empire together than years of peaceful progress might have accomplished. Her Majesty's frequent messages of thanks and greeting to her colonies and to the troops sent by them, and her reception of the latter at Windsor on their return, gave evidence of the heartfelt joy with which she saw the sons of the Empire giving their lives for the defence of its integrity. Akin to this feeling was the satisfaction which she showed in the Federation of the Australian Colonies. The Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament is not commonly thought to represent the personal mind of the Sovereign; but there can be little doubt that the paragraph which spoke of this point, if not actually written by the Queen, gave perfect expression to her feeling on this matter. "I have watched with cordial satisfaction," said the Speech, "the gradual development of my greater colonies into self-governing communities. I feel confident that the establishment of the great Federation of Australia will prove advantageous not only to the colonies immediately concerned, but to the Empire at large."

The South African war, which broke out in October, 1899, was from the outset a source of grave and natural anxiety to the Queen. That so serious a quarrel should arise to cloud the last years of her reign was in itself a cause of grief to her; the increase of work necessarily imposed upon her energies, already taxed beyond what might have been thought possible for a woman of fourscore years, was

a severe trial to her strength; and the reverses of the first part of the campaign, together with the loss of so many of her officers and soldiers, caused no small part of that "great strain" of which the Court Circular spoke in the ominous words which first told her Majesty's subjects that she was seriously ill. But the manner in which the Queen faced the new situation, though it surprised none of her subjects, increased their admiration for her courage, her devotion, and her strength of will. On many occasions she reviewed the departing regiments; she entertained the wives and children of the Windsor soldiers who had gone to the war; she showed by frequent messages her watchful interest in the course of the campaign and in the efforts which were being made throughout the whole Empire; and her Christmas gift of a box of chocolate to every soldier in South Africa was a touching proof of her sympathy and interest. Those matters met the public eye, but behind them lay a vastly increased burden of toil of which the public knew nothing. People seldom reflect that the Sovereign is the head of the Army, and that this position entailed upon the Queen even in ordinary times a number of duties of which the personal attention which she always gave to all findings of Courts-martial is but a small sample. In time of war these duties become onerous indeed, and, when added to the moral strain upon the sensitive nature of a sympathetic woman which must be caused by a long war waged in her name, their serious effect upon the aged Sovereign is easy to understand. But instead of shrinking from the added burden of duty the Queen went so far as to relinquish her annual holiday on the Riviera, feeling that at such a time she ought not to leave her country. Entirely on her own initiative, and moved by admiration for the fine achievements of "her brave Irish" during the war, her Majesty announced her intention of paying a long visit to Dublin; and there, accordingly, she went for the month of April, staying in the Viceregal Lodge, receiving many of the leaders of Irish society, inspecting some 50,000 school children from all parts of Ireland, and taking many a drive amid the charming scenery of the neighbourhood of Dublin. The effect of this visit upon the warmhearted Irish people was most happy; disloyalty was silenced, and the stay of the Queen in her Irish capital was not only enjoyable to herself, but was of no small importance as a political event.

Some months earlier, in the previous November, the Queen had had the pleasure of receiving, on a private visit, her grandson the

German Emperor, who came accompanied by the Empress and by two of their sons. It is true that the visit had been arranged long before, but that it should still take place after the outbreak of a war which had called down upon this country the denunciations of many of his Majesty's German subjects was rightly thought to be a strong proof that the Kaiser was not going to be led astray by the machinations of Dr. Leyds. His Foreign Minister, Count von Bülow, was with him; there were long interviews with Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain; and there was a rapid visit to Sandringham, where—it is now not indiscreet to say—the late Bishop of London preached a strong sermon on the need of a good understanding between England and Germany; to which the Emperor replied, "You are preaching a doctrine which I am endeavouring with all my strength to impress upon my people." This visit of her grandson cheered the Queen, and the successes of the Army which followed the arrival of Lord Roberts in Africa were matter of great joy to her, as she testified by many published messages. But independently of the public anxieties of the war, and of those aroused by the violent and unexpected outbreak of Chinese fanaticism, the year brought deep private griefs to the Queen. In 1899 her grandson, the Hereditary Prince of Coburg, had succumbed to phthisis; in 1900 his father, the Queen's second son, who had been so long and so well-known here as the Duke of Edinburgh, died quite suddenly of heart failure, the illness from which he had long suffered taking an unexpected change for the worse. To this blow was soon added another in the death of that promising young soldier Prince Christian Victor, the Queen's grandson, who fell a victim to enteric fever at Pretoria; and during the autumn it came to be known that the Empress Frederick, the Queen's eldest daughter, was very seriously ill. Moreover, just at the end of the year a loss which greatly shocked and grieved the Queen was experienced in the sudden death, at Windsor Castle, of the Dowager Lady Churchill, one of her Majesty's oldest and most intimate friends. There had been not only truth, but prophecy, in the Queen's sad words in the letter which we have quoted: "My bereavements in the last thirty years of my reign have indeed been heavy." In the end they, and the other anxieties of the time, told upon her with a force that could not be resisted at her advanced age. Throughout her life she had enjoyed excellent health, and even in the last few years the only marks of age were rheumatic stiffness of the joints, which prevented walking, and diminished power of eyesight. In the autumn of 1900,

however, her health began definitely to fail, and though for a time the digestive weakness was overcome, so that arrangements were lately made for another holiday in the south, it was plain that her strength was seriously affected. Still she continued the ordinary routine of her duties and occupations. Before Christmas she made her usual journey to Osborne, and there on January 2 she received Lord Roberts on his return from South Africa and handed to him the insignia of the Garter. So keen, indeed, was her Majesty's interest in the war that a fortnight later she commanded a second visit from the Field-Marshal; she continued to transact business, and until a week before her death she still took her daily drive. A sudden loss of power then supervened, and on Friday evening, January 18, the Court Circular published the authoritative announcement of her illness. The details of what followed, ending in the Queen's death on the evening of Tuesday, January 22, are only too familiar to her sorrowing people.

CONCLUSION



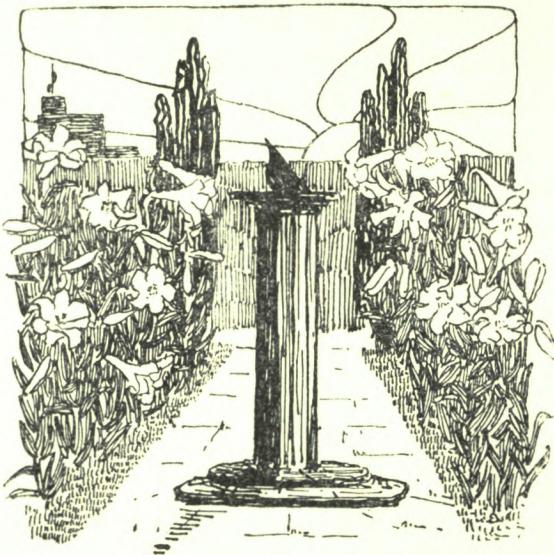
HEIR sorrow is as universal as it is natural. Of the hundreds of millions of the Queen's subjects, brought into instantaneous touch with each other and with the centre of government by the mighty inventions of her reign, every man who knows anything at all knows that in losing Queen Victoria he has lost not only the best of rulers but a personal benefactress. Let any one read the records of 1837 or of 1830, and then say what might have happened to this Kingdom and Empire if the successor to the Throne had been, we will not say another George IV., but what a Princess might

easily have been—self-willed, self-indulgent, and the puppet of favourites. Those were hard times; times of bad trade, low wages, dear food, and general ignorance; times of discontent that might easily have become dangerous, and of a criminal law not yet freed from inhumanity. Neither the tact of Melbourne nor the wisdom of Peel could have saved the Throne from rude shocks, or perhaps the country from revolution and the Empire from breaking up, if the Princess Victoria had been, shall we say, an Isabella of Spain. On the contrary, she quickly proved to be sound in heart and clear in head, knowing her duty and resolved to do it. Within a month of her accession all doubt as to the loyalty of her people was set at rest. Fortunate she was in having Lord Melbourne by her side; thrice fortunate, when she came to marry, in being able to choose a husband so exactly suited both to her and to the political duties of his

position as Prince Albert. But good fortune was not everything—the Queen's own nature, schooled by the arduous experience of a Throne, must count for infinitely more. To most of us the whole course of our lives as subjects of the Queen has been the proof of the admirable way in which this unique woman—whose small frame was permeated, so to speak, with Royal dignity, whose home life was so simple and pure, and whose intelligence, with none of the brilliancy of her eldest daughter or of her Imperial grandson, was yet formed by work and long experience into a powerful instrument of life—has met the difficulties of the longest and the fullest reign in English history. That reign has witnessed more and greater changes than had been wrought by many previous centuries. It has witnessed the transference of political power from a small nominated class to the democracy. It has enormously increased the size and responsibilities of the British Empire, calling daughter nations into existence by their mother's side. It has changed the map of Europe and called a populous America into being. It has girdled the earth with telegraph wires, covered the land with railways, and the sea with swift steamers. It has enormously increased scientific knowledge, and, as a consequence, has insensibly tended to alter the whole mental outlook of mankind. And yet, with all this rush of change, Great Britain has remained extraordinarily stable. Progress has been continuous, and generally it has been calm. In large measure, of course, we owe this to the national character, and to the good fortune which has never failed to provide men to serve their country at its need and to steer it on its perilous and envied course. But largely, too—how largely we shall realize more and more now that that gracious and venerated presence is removed—we owe it to the sound understanding, the wide knowledge, the hard work, and the unwavering goodness of Queen Victoria. Exerted without stint or stay, and enriched with ever-growing experience through the long years of her reign, these qualities came long ago to be recognized as much by the masses of her people, here and in the Colonies and Dependencies, as by the Ministers with whom she transacted business and the Sovereigns and Princes with whom she kept up so constant a correspondence. The recognition of them had time to crystallize, almost, into worship, or at least into a feeling different from that

which is felt in any part of the modern world towards any other person.

Happy are we who have grown up under the shadow of that venerable name! Now, by the inevitable law, the long life is ended; the name has passed into history. Already it looms large; it will loom larger and larger as the years and the centuries roll on.



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The life of Queen
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